

### 3. PLATYCLADUS Spach, Hist. Nat. Vég. Phan. 11: 333. 1841.

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*Biota* D. Don ex Endlicher.

Trees evergreen, monoecious; branchlets arranged in a plane, spreading or ascending, flattened. Leaves decussate, 4-ranked, scalelike, base decurrent, with an abaxial resin gland, dimorphic along branchlets; lateral leaves without conspicuous, white stomatal bands abaxially but with a median groove. Pollen cones with 8–12 microsporophylls, each with 3–6 pollen sacs. Seed cones terminal, solitary, dehiscent when mature in 1st year; cone scales 6 or 8, decussate, flat, thick, woody, only the middle 2 pairs fertile; free bract apex a long, recurved cusp. Seeds wingless, rarely with a very narrow wing. Cotyledons 2.

One species: China, Korea, E Russia.

**1. *Platycladus orientalis*** (Linnaeus) Franco, Portugaliae Acta Biol., ser. B, Sist. Vol. “Júlio Henriques”: 33. 1949.

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*Thuja orientalis* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 1002. 1753; *Biota orientalis* (Linnaeus) Endlicher; *Platycladus stricta* Spach; *Thuja chengii* Bordères & Gaussen; *T. orientalis* var. *argyi* Lemée & H. Léveillé.

Trees to more than 20 m tall; trunk to 1 m (or more) d.b.h.; bark reddish brown to light grayish brown, thin, flaking in long strips; crown ovoid-pyramidal when young, broadly rounded or irregular when old. Leaves 1–3 mm, apex bluntly pointed; facial leaves rhomboid, with a conspicuous, linear, glandular groove at center abaxially; lateral leaves overlapping facial ones, boat-shaped, ridged, apex slightly incurved. Pollen cones yellowish green, ovoid, 2–3 mm. Seed cones when immature bluish green, subglobose, ca. 3 mm in diam., when ripe reddish brown, subovoid, 1.5–2(–2.5) × 1–1.8 cm; proximal 2 fertile cone scales 2-seeded, distal 2 fertile scales 1-seeded. Seeds grayish brown or purplish brown, ovoid or subellipsoid, 5–7 × 3–4 mm, slightly ridged. Pollination Mar–Apr, seed maturity Oct.

Natural occurrences difficult to distinguish from local introductions, owing to extensive cultivation and planting in the past; 300–3300 m. Native in S Gansu, Hebei, Henan, Shaanxi, Shanxi; introduced or status uncertain in Anhui, Fujian, N Guangdong, N Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, S Nei Mongol, Shandong, Sichuan, Xizang, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Korea, E Russia].

