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*Pinus attenuata*

[Synonyms : *Pinus californica*, *Pinus tuberculata*, *Pinus tuberculata* var. *acuta*]

**KNOB CONE PINE** is an evergreen tree. Native to the western United States it has needle-like leaves and conical heavy, dark brown cones.

It is also known as *Borovice hrboľkatá* (Czech).

Unless opened by the heat of fire (actually some time after the fire has passed by) the cones remain firmly closed for 20 years or more before releasing their seeds. The base of a cone can even become embedded within the expanding trunk (like bishop pine, *Pinus muricata*) which explains an old description occasionally levelled at it today, *the tree that swallows its cones*. One cone may contain from 85-160 seeds.

*Attenuata* is derived from Latin *attenuo* (to make thin, reduce) meaning ‘narrowing/tapering to a point, or drawn out’ with reference to the cones.

North American Karok Indians decorated their clothing with the nuts.

It was discovered by Theodor Hartweg (1812-1871) in 1847 the German explorer/botanist who travelled in Ecuador, Mexico and California and collected plants under the sponsorship of the English Horticultural Society, and it was introduced to Britain in the same year.

The tree is cultivated as an ornamental.