PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Torreya taxifolia* Arn.

**GENUS** *Torreya* **FAMILY** Taxaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Florida torreya, Stinking cedar

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Nuts

## DESCRIPTION

A small evergreen tree. It has an unpleasant smell. The crown is open and cone shaped. The bark is brown and thin. It has irregular cracks. The branches spread horizontal. It grows 9 m high and the trunk can be 30 cm across. The needles are 2.5-4 cm long by 3 mm wide. They spread in 2 rows. They have a long sharp tip. They are slightly curved and flattened but rounded on the back. They are dark green above and paler with 2 light bands underneath. The seeds and male cones are on separate trees. The seeds are 2.5-3 cm long. They occur singly and are narrowly oval but more broad above the middle. They have a fleshy dark green outer layer. The inner layer is light red brown. The male or pollen cones are 6 mm long. They are pale yellow and occur singly at the base of the leaves.

## HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows on banks near rivers and in moist valleys. They are mostly below 30 m altitude in Florida.

## NOTES

It is an endangered plant.
Also put in the family Cephalotaxaceae.

## REFERENCES

Ann. Nat. Hist. 1:130. 1838

Little, E.L., 1980, National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees. Alfred A. Knopf. p 274

Menninger, E.A., 1977, Edible Nuts of the World. Horticultural Books. Florida p 160

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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