

Araucariaceae J.B. Henkel & C.F. Hochstetter

Araucaria Family

Also known as the Monkey Puzzle Family. The gymnosperm family *Araucariaceae* includes two closely related genera, the *Araucaria* and *Agathis*, containing a total of approximately 30 to 32 species. Both genera contain important timber trees for the Southern Hemisphere and have species that are widely planted in tropical landscapes. Most species are evergreen and resinous. Leaves are simple, usually alternate, only occasionally opposite or nearly so, awl-shaped to broadly ovate, and leathery or stiff in texture. Woody cones are the reproductive structures, varying greatly in size and shape, but usually with males smaller and more cylindrical and females larger relative to males and more globose. Cone scales lack bracts and have only one ovule per scale. *Agathis australis*, the fabled Kauri, is one of the tallest trees in the world, potentially exceeding 200Ntall in its native haunts. The *Pinaceae* is probably the closest related family.

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