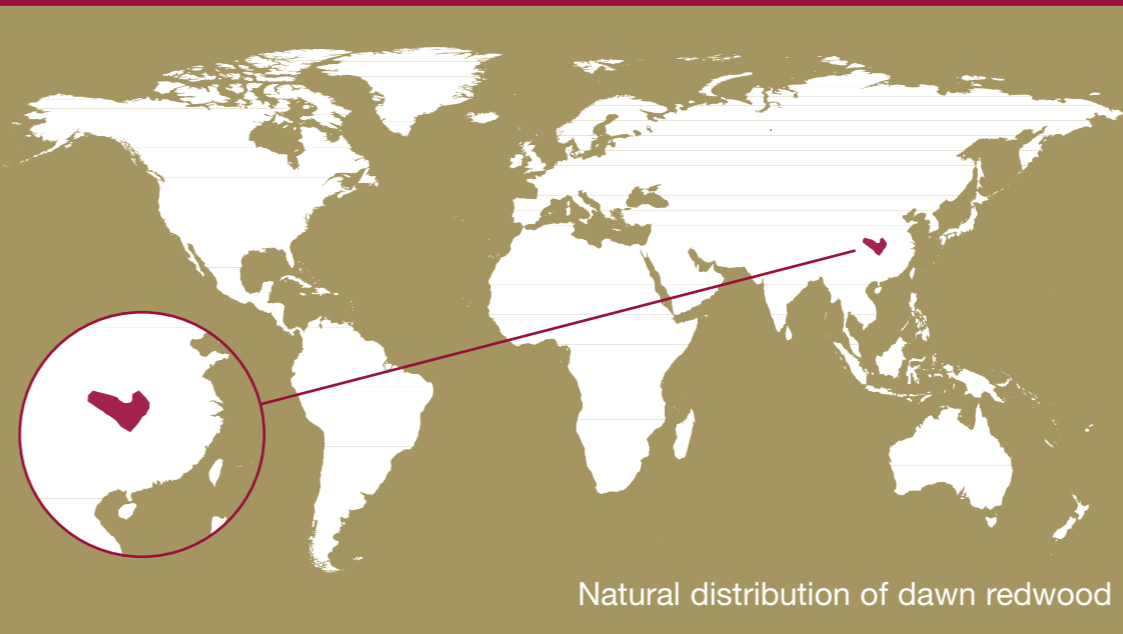


# Dawn redwood *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

This tree, growing in Modaoqi village, Wanxian county, China, was the first dawn redwood to be described and named.



illustrations by John White

This is a deciduous conifer. The needles turn pink in autumn before falling off. Can you spot which trees in front of you are dawn redwoods? Look for their fluted trunks and opposite branchlets.

## A living fossil... but now nearly extinct.

Before 1941 we only knew about this tree from fossilized specimens that had died millions of years before. Then, incredibly, some were discovered growing in a remote valley in China.

Sadly, the dawn redwood is now at risk of becoming extinct in the wild, mainly because of human pressures, including logging. Staff from the National Pinetum are working with Chinese institutions to see what the wider botanic world can do to help.

## Did you know?

There are many dawn redwoods planted in botanic collections worldwide, but they all come from the same few wild trees. It's like having thousands of photocopies of one page in a book. To save the dawn redwood we need copies of the whole book!

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