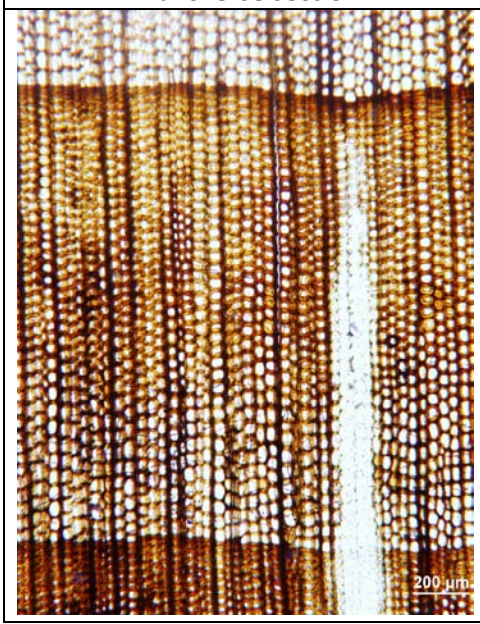
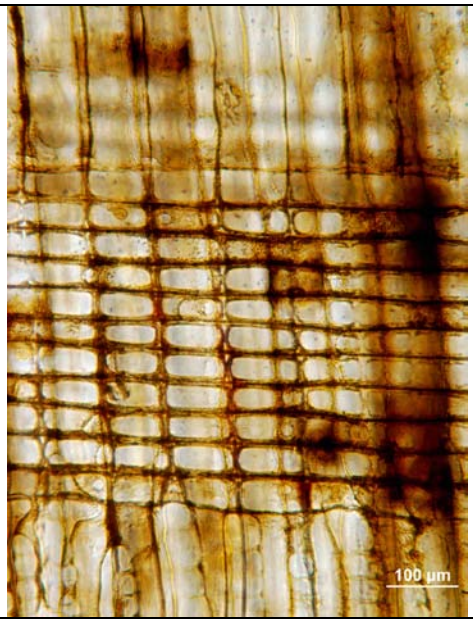
***Cupressinoxylon* spp. (cedar, Port Orford cedar)**

Family: Cupressaceae

Naming reference: Wheeler, E.A. & T.A. Dillhoff. 2009. The Middle Miocene wood flora of Vantage, Washington, USA. IAWA Journal, Supplement 7. 101p.

Transverse section	Radial section	Tangential section
		

Photos courtesy Dr. E.A. Wheeler

Diagnostic features: Growth rings distinct. Tracheids angular in cross sectional outline, approximately equal in size. Gradual transition to latewood zone, which consists of radially compressed tracheids. Horizontal and axial resin canals lacking. Rays uniseriate, relatively short. Cross-field pits cupressoid. Axial parenchyma may or may not be present.

Discussion: Even in modern woods, it is very difficult to separate different genera within the cedar family based on wood anatomy. Identifications often rely on features which are not preserved in fossils, such as odor or heartwood color. Fossil specimens of the wood type featured on this page may actually represent several different genera such as *Calocedrus* (incense cedar), *Chamaecyparis* (Port Orford cedar), *Thuja* (red or white cedars) or *Tetraclinus* (Sandarac). All of these genera have been identified from fossil foliage or cones in the Tertiary of the Pacific Northwest. Professor Beck tentatively identified some of his specimens as *Callitris* or *Torreya*, but further investigation by Wheeler & Dillhoff (2009) did not support those identifications.

This wood is superficially similar to *Taxodioxylon antiquum* and can be difficult to differentiate. In cross section, *Taxodioxylon* is often coarser grained with axial parenchyma visible as dark cells within the growth ring. This doesn't always hold true, however. Thin sections of well preserved specimens are needed to definitively identify the type.

Cupressinoxylon is known from most localities in the Columbia River Basalts, and is commonly seen in public and private collections.