

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers. Australian Plant Image Index, Australian Tropical Rainforest key, photographer B Jago, unknown place



Leaves and fruit. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Cathu State Forest south of Proserpine, Qld



Trunk. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra



Tree. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Brisbane, Qld

Common name

celery wood, silver basswood, black pencil cedar

Family

Araliaceae

Where found

Forest, swales of coastal dune systems, and along streams. Coastal north of Batemans Bay.

Notes

Tree to 30 m high. Fruit fleshy. Smooth-barked on young trees but fissured, scaly, and rough-barked on larger trees. Stems with prominent **lenticels**, **stellate** hairy (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see), becoming hairless. Leaves aromatic when rubbed, smelling of celery, **alternating** up the stems, **compound**, 30-150 cm long, **bipinnate** with an unstated number of **pinnae**, each to 12 cm long, and about 13-55 leaflets in all. Some leaves on flowering shoots with only the main **rachis** and with 5-9 leaflets. Leaflets about 3.5-14 cm long, about 20-65 mm wide, with branched hairs when young, tips pointed, margins **entire**. Flowers bisexual, or with male and female flowers on the same plant. Flowers purple to black, with 5 **petals** each 2-3 mm long, turned back when the flower is open. Flowers in large branched clusters. Flowering: April-August. Fruit dark purple to purple-black when ripe, about 5 mm long.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Polyscias~elegans> (accessed 2 February, 2021)

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