

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Stem with seed cases (var. *ferdinandi*).
Photographer Jackie Miles



Seed cases, seeds, and leaves (var. *ferdinandi*)
Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, NE of Wingham



Tree (var. *ferdinandi*) Australian Plant Image Index,
photographer Murray Fagg, Royal Botanic Gardens
Melbourne, Vic

Common name

Cheese tree, Buttonwood, Hairy cheese tree

Family

Phyllanthaceae

Where found

Forest and near streams. North from just south of Bermagui. Coast, ranges, and the eastern edge of the tablelands.

Notes

Shrub or tree to about 25 m high. Seed stalk/**arils** fleshy. Trunk often crooked or flanged. Bark brownish, fissured, shedding in longitudinal flakes or patches. Stems hairless or hairy. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 3–11 cm long, 15–50 mm wide, both surfaces green, upper surface glossy and hairless or rarely sparsely hairy, lower surface usually hairless or sometimes covered in soft hairs, tips pointed. Male and female flowers on the same plant. Flowers with 6 greenish to yellowish '**petals**' each 2–3 mm long. Flowers single or in few-flowered clusters. Seed case green turning whitish pink to deep red when ripe, 10–20 mm in diameter, opening and exposing the seeds completely covered by a red **aril**; ripe Nov.–Feb.

var. ferdinandi: Hairless in all parts.

var. pubens: New growth, branchlets, leaves and seed cases hairy with fine hairs.

Family was Euphorbiaceae.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Glochidion~ferdinandi>
(accessed 18 January, 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:



Android edition



iOS edition

Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY)