Actephila venusta P.I.Forst.

Family: Phyllanthaceae


Stem
Usually flowers and fruits as a shrub about 1-4 m tall.

Leaves
Leaf blades about 5.5-12 x 3-6 cm, petioles about 0.9-2.2 cm long. Lateral veins forming indistinct loops inside the blade margin.

Flowers
Flowers about 6-7 mm diam. Pedicels about 10 mm long.

Fruit
Fruits about 13 mm diam. Seeds about 10 mm diam. Cotyledons rolled, longer and wider than the radicle.

Seedlings
Cotyledons orbicular or quadrangular, about 25-35 mm diam. Cotyledons 5-veined at the base, base cordate. First pair of leaves sub-opposite, elliptic, margins smooth. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade elliptic to obovate, lateral veins forming indistinct loops inside the blade margins. Stipules triangular, about 1-2 mm long, margins fimbriate. Stem lenticels pale brown, elongated vertically. Leaves produced in whorl-like clusters. Terminal buds enclosed in overlapping bracts. Seed germination time 31 to 59 days.

Distribution and Ecology
Perhaps endemic to Australia, occurs in NT, CYP and the far northern part of NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 500 m. Grows as an understory plant in well developed rain forest and monsoon forest.

Synonyms
Actephila sp. (Lockerbie WWC 817).

RFK Code
3512

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