

Alectryon oleifolius subsp. *elongatus* S.T.Reynolds

Family:

Sapindaceae

Reynolds, S.T. (1987), Notes on Sapindaceae, V. *Austrobaileya* 2(4): 337.

Common name:

Western Rosewood

Stem

Shrub or small tree to 13 m, branches drooping. Bark dark grey, rough throughout; buds and young stems with white appressed hairs, stems becoming hairless.

Leaves

Leaves simple, alternate, drooping or pendulous. Stipules absent. Petiole 5-15 mm long. Leaf blade linear or narrow-elliptic to sub-falcate, 5-18 cm long, 4-18 mm wide, base tapered, margin entire, apex acute to acuminate. Pinnately veined with 20-25 pairs of main lateral veins, obscure both sides. Domatia absent. Leaf blade green to glaucous and hairless to sparsely hairy both sides.

Flowers

Inflorescence axillary, thyrsoid or paniculate to 9 cm. Flowers functionally unisexual, plants monoecious, to 4 mm diameter. Calyx whitish, yellow, green or red, sepals fused basally, petals absent. Male flowers with 6-8 stamens with a rudimentary ovary; female flowers with staminodes; ovary superior with 2-4 locules.

Fruit

Fruit a dry to leathery capsule, compressed globose, usually 2-lobed, to 9 mm diam. Fruit dehiscent, each lobe splitting irregularly to release one black seed with a red to orange cupular aril. Aril red to orange, granular, fleshy, covering seed more than halfway.

Seedlings

No data available for these features.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NEQ and CEQ, distributed inland from Townville to north west of Canberra (in NSW). Occasionally found in dry vine thicket communities, most commonly found in open communities. Two outlier specimens in the Kowanyama area (Cape York Peninsula, NEQ) have an atypical leaf form with much shorter obovate leaves > 1 cm wide and with fruit with a sparse indumentum of appressed hairs.

Synonyms

Heterodendrum microcalyx Radlk. *Actes du Congrès International de Botanistes .. Amsterdam for 1877*: 119 (1879) Type: "Flinders river". **Heterodendrum floribundum** E.Pritz. *Repertorium Specierum Novarum Regni Vegetabilis* 15: 358 (1918). Type: "in Australia centrali prope Hermannsburg ad flumen Fincke, leg. Strehlow 1906-1908, no. 43. **Heterodendrum oleifolium** var. **microcalyx** (Radlk.) Domin. *Beitrage zur Flora und Pflanzengeographie Australiens. Bibliotheca Botanica* 22(89): 902 (1927).

RFK Code

1216



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