

Antirhea tenuiflora F.Muell. ex Benth.

Family:

Rubiaceae

Bentham, G. (1867) *Flora Australiensis* 3: 418. Type: Queensland. Rockingham Bay, Dallachy.

Common name:

Antirhea; Crimson Berry; Guettardella

Stem

Blaze darkens considerably on exposure.

Leaves

Stipules about 5-8 mm long, gradually tapering to a fine point at the apex. Leaf blades about 6-15 x 2-6.5 cm. When held up to the light the veinlets between the main lateral veins appear to run +/- parallel to one another. Domatia are tufts of hair.

Flowers

Inflorescence shorter than the leaves. Calyx about 2-2.5 mm, the lobes about 0.25 mm. Corolla tube about 6 mm long, more than four times the length of the corolla lobes. Corolla tube sparsely pubescent on the outer surface, but mainly glabrous on the inner surface (except near the base). Tips of the anthers just projecting beyond the corolla tube. Stigma 2-4-lobed.

Fruit

Fruits about 10-15 x 7-10 mm. Endocarp with 3 or 4 longitudinal ribs or 3 or 4 lobes in cross section.

Seedlings

Cotyledons ovate, about 7-8 mm long, hairy on the upper surface mainly about the margin. Stipules present. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade +/- elliptic, densely hairy on both the upper and lower surfaces; petioles, terminal bud and stem densely hairy; stipules triangular, interpetiolar, hairy. Seed germination time 21 to 118 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP, NEQ and CEQ. Altitudinal range from sea level to 1400 m. Grows as an understory tree in well developed rain forest on a variety of sites. Also occurs in New Guinea.

Natural History & Notes

Fruit eaten by King parrots and Cassowaries. Cooper & Cooper (1994).

Leaf material of this species was active against some tumors. Collins et al. (1990).

Synonyms

Guettardella tenuiflora (F.Muell. ex Benth.) M.E.Jansen, *Blumea* 29(2): 586(1984). *Matthiola tenuiflora* (F.Muell. ex Benth.) Kuntze, *Revisio Generum Plantarum* 1: 288(1891). *Guettarda tenuiflora* (F.Muell. ex Benth.) F.Muell., *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 9: 183(1875).

RFK Code

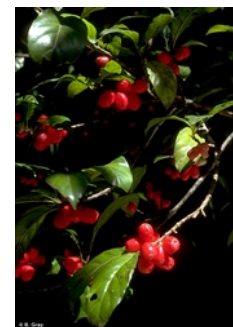
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Flowers. © Barry Jago



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruit. © B. Gray



Fruit, several views, cross section and endocarp. © W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

