

# *Atractocarpus fitzalanii* (F.Muell.) Puttock subsp. *fitzalanii*

## Family:

Rubiaceae

Puttock, C.F. (1999) *Australian Systematic Botany* 12: 285.

## Common name:

Orange Randia; Yellow Mangosteen; Brown Gardenia

## Stem

Usually a small tree seldom exceeding 30 cm dbh. Blaze sometimes marked by red speckles.

## Leaves

Stipules often quite large, lanceolate, about 30 mm long, drawn out into a fine point at the apex, not twisted, enclosing the terminal bud on each twig. Stipules square in transverse section. Stipules glabrous on the outer surface. Stipular scars do not leave a prominent ring on the twigs. Petioles glossy, smooth, without scurfy scales and also without transverse ridges on the adaxial surface. Leaf blades about 9-20 x 4.8-10.5 cm.

## Flowers

Male flowers: Flowers on a pedicle about 1-15 mm long. Calyx lobes small and inconspicuous. Flowers quite large, corolla tube about 10 mm long with corolla lobes about 15 mm long. Anthers sessile, about 6-7 mm long, included in the corolla tube. Female flowers: Hypanthium about 7 mm long. Calyx tube about 6 mm long, lobes about 1 mm long. Corolla tube about 15 mm long, lobes about 20 mm long. Style + stigma about 14-17 mm long, swollen part about 9-12 mm long, stigmatic lobes about 6-10 mm long.

## Fruit

Fruits frequently solitary (rarely 2-4 together) globular or ellipsoid, about 60-70 x 35-100 mm, calyx often persisting at the apex. Pedicels about 10-15 mm long. Seeds numerous, flattened, about 8 x 6-7 mm. Cotyledons wider than the radicle.

## Seedlings

Cotyledons broadly ovate to orbicular, about 14-22 mm long. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves obovate, apex cuneate to acuminate, base attenuate, glabrous, midrib raised on the upper surface; stipules interpetiolar, elongate-triangular, about 1-3 cm long. Seed germination time 27 to 103 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Queensland, occurs in NEQ and CEQ. Altitudinal range from sea level to 1200 m. Grows as an understory tree in well developed rain forest on a variety of sites.

## Natural History & Notes

A shrub or small tree now often cultivated for the showy perfumed flowers. It maintains a good shape and is adaptable and easy to grow.

This species is one of the few native plants known to have been used as an aphrodisiac by the aborigines. Cribb (1981).

## Synonyms

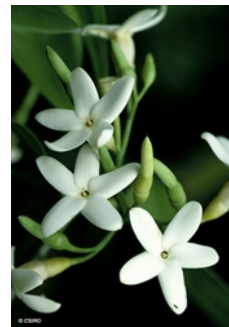
***Randia fitzalanii* (F.Muell.) Benth.**, *Flora Australiensis* 3: 411(1867). ***Gardenia fitzalanii* F.Muell.**, *Essay on the plants collected by E. Fitzalan during Leiut. Smith's Expedition to the Estuary of the Burdekin ...* : 12(1860), Type: Cape Upstart, Magnetical Island, Halifax Bay.

## RFK Code

145



Flower and buds. © Barry Jago



Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Fruit, side views, cross section and seeds. © W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

