

Blepharocarya involucrigera F.Muell.

Family:

Anacardiaceae

Mueller, F.J.H. von (1879) *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 11: 16. Type: In montibus rupestribus Endeavour River; Persietz. syn: MEL; iso: BRI.

Common name:

Bollygum; Bollygum, North Queensland; Bollygum, Northern; North Queensland Bollygum; Northern Bollygum; Rose Butternut

Stem

Normally a well formed tree usually producing a clear resin which can cause allergic reactions.

Leaves

Twigs exuding a small quantity of clear resin. Numerous pale brown lenticels on the twigs. Upper surface of the compound leaf rhachis +/- flat and the margins angular or slightly winged, particularly below the basal pair of leaflets. A rib usually visible on the underside of the basal part of the compound leaf rhachis and then running down the twig to the next pair of leaves. Leaflet blades about 5-15 x 1.5-4.5 cm.

Flowers

Flowers crowded, more or less in dense heads surrounded by a number of bracts. Male flowers: Flowers about 2-2.5 mm diam., sepals about 1 x 1 mm, petals about 1.5 x 1 mm. Anthers about 0.5 mm long, filaments about 1.5-2 mm long. Female flowers: Flowers about 1.5 mm diam., tepals about 1.5 mm long. Style and stigma about 1.5 mm long.

Fruit

Individual fruits about 7-10 x 4-5 mm, green, ripening brown, margins fimbriate with pale hairs. Fruits borne in a capsule-like involucre of long linear bracts. 'Capsules' about 20-30 x 15-20 mm. Inverted umbrella-shaped clusters of bracts, about 2-3 cm diameter, normally present beneath mature trees.

Seedlings

Cotyledons about 16-18 x 6-7 mm, asymmetrical at the base. First pair of leaves lanceolate, about 30-37 x 10-13 mm. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves simple, lanceolate, apex long acuminate, petiole long and slender. Seed germination time 6 to 12 days.

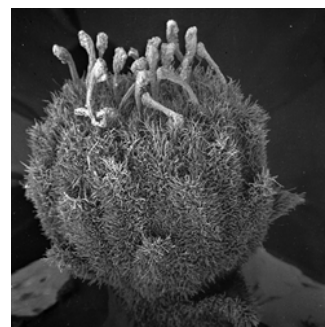
Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Queensland, occurring as a widespread species in both CYP and NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 800 m. Growing to a large tree in well developed rain forest but often occurring as a small tree in marginal situations particularly in the northern part of its range. Often found in what appear to be even-aged stands.

Natural History & Notes



Male flowers. CC-BY J.L. Dowe



Female flower. © UNSW



Persistent involucre and fruit. © CSIRO



Habit and persistent involucre. © CSIRO



Involucre, three side views and fruit. © W. T. Cooper

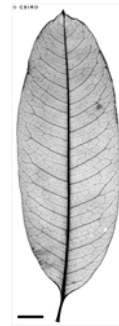
This species produces a quite decorative timber resembling that of *Flindersia brayleyana*. The finished polished timber can look quite similar to that of *Flindersia brayleyana* and there is some evidence that timber of *Blepharocarya involucrigera* was sold by enterprising sawmillers as *Flindersia brayleyana*. Sawmill workers and other people can be severely affected by dermatitis and other allergic reactions after coming in contact with this species. Any part of this species can cause a reaction in sensitised individuals.

Formerly used in the manufacture of barrels (cooperage). Swain (1928).

Wood specific gravity 0.56. Cause et al. (1989).

RFK Code

219



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO

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Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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