**Brachychiton australis** (Schott & Endl.) A.Terracc.

**Family:**
Malvaceae


**Common name:**
Broad Leaved Bottle; Bottle; Large Leaved Bottle; Broad-leaved Bottle Tree

**Stem**
Deciduous; leafless for a period between June and August. White, granular and darker fibrous stripes in the outer blaze. Oak grain in the inner blaze.

**Leaves**
Leaf blades about 8-18 x 12-20 cm, 4-9-lobed, each ending in a fine tip. Sometimes the major lobes also have lobed margins towards the base. Twig bark strong and fibrous when stripped. Pores in the twig pith readily visible to the naked eye.

**Flowers**
Perianth about 15-22 mm long, valvate in the bud, stellate-puberulent outside (hairs brown), +/- glabrous inside, but hirsute with white simple hairs in the lower part and clothed in white stellate hairs on the lobes. Floral nectaries absent from the inside of the perianth tube. Usually flowering when leafless.

**Fruit**
Fruits glabrous outside, about 7-11 x 3-4 cm. Seeds about 7.5-10 x 5-6 mm.

**Seedlings**
Cotyledons oblong, about 20-25 x 20 mm, underside hairy at the base. Petiole hairy. First pair of leaves cordate. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves cordate, apex acute or obtuse, base cordate, lobes overlapping, upper surface hairy along the veins, three to 3-5 main veins radiate from the petiole; petiole, stem and terminal bud hairy; stipules oblong, hairy; stem slightly swollen towards the base. Seed germination time 4 days.

**Distribution and Ecology**
Endemic to Queensland, occurs in NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as south-eastern Queensland. Altitudinal range in NEQ from 300-800 m. Grows in monsoon forest and vine thickets in rather rocky situations.

**Natural History & Notes**
A very large bottle tree that would be useful in parks or gardens in dryer areas. Flower are white and are produced when the tree is leafless.

**Synonyms**
- *Brachychiton platanoides* R.Br., *Plantae Javanicae Rariores* 234 (1844), Type: In ora orientali, intra tropicum, Novae Hollandiae ann. 1802 legi.
- *Trichosiphum australe* Schott & Endl., *Meletemata Botanica* 34(1832), Type: Arbor Insulae Northumberland.

**RFK Code**
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Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO