Breynia stipitata Mull.Arg.

Family:
Phyllanthaceae

Mueller Argoviensis, J. (1866) *Prodromus* 15: 442. Type: In Sweers Island Novae Hollandiae (Henne! ex specim. a cl. Ferd. Muell. miss. in hb. DC.

Common name:
Apple, Dwarf's; Fart Bush; Dwarf's Apple; Breynia; Coffee Bush

Stem

Seldom exceeding 30 cm dbh.

Leaves

Leaves distichous, leaf blades about 4-9 x 2.5-5 cm. Crushed leaves emit an obnoxious odour. Stipules fairly small, tapering to a fine point. About 4-8 main lateral veins on each side of the midrib.

Flowers

Flowers small, less than 3 mm diam. at anthesis.

Fruit

Fruits globular to depressed globular, about 7-10 mm diam., on pedicels about 3-5 mm long. Seeds about 4-5 mm long. Testa pale, surface smooth.

Seedlings

Cotyledons elliptic, about 8-13 x 3-5 mm. All leaves after 1st or 2nd pair of leaves are produced on lateral shoots and resemble compound leaves. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade ovate to elliptic, apex acute, base cuneate; stipules triangular, about 0.5 mm long.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Australia (?), occurs in NT, CYP and NEQ, widespread. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 800 m. This is a regrowth species which is favoured by disturbance. Grows in disturbed areas in well developed rain forest.

Natural History & Notes

Food plant for the larval stages of the Common Grass Yellow Butterfly. Common & Waterhouse (1981).
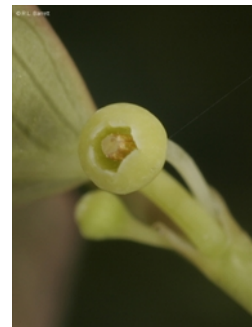
This shrub contains methyl mercaptan, a substance with a particularly disagreeable odour. Cribb (1981).
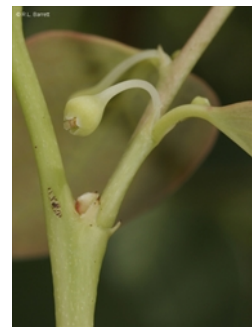
RFK Code

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Female flower. © Barry Jago

Flower. © R.L. Barrett

Flower. © R.L. Barrett

Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO
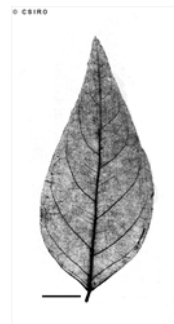

Leaves and fruit. © R.L. Barrett
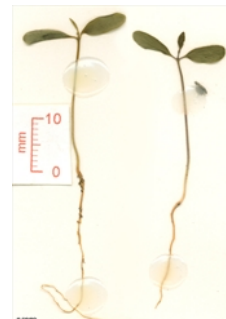
Fruit. © R.L. Barrett

Fruit, three views and cross section. © W. T. Cooper

Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO

Cotyledon stage, Epigeal germination. © CSIRO

10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

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