

# *Bridelia tomentosa* Blume

## Family:

Phyllanthaceae

Blume, C.L. von (1827) *Bijdragen tot de Flora van Nederlandsch Indie* No. 7: 597. Type: Java, in montane Park of Brittenburg.  
Blume s.n.; lecto: BO, Fide Airy Shaw (1980), *Kew Bull.* 35: 602.

## Stem

Usually flowers and fruits as a shrub about 1-4 m tall.

## Leaves

Leaf blades about 3.7-9 x 2-6 cm, petioles about 3-6 mm long. Lateral veins about 7-13, curving but not forming distinct loops inside the blade margin. Stipules short, filiform.

## Flowers

Numerous flowers in each fascicle. Calyx lobes about 1.5-2 x 0.5-0.9 mm. Petals small and inconspicuous, about 0.5-0.6 x 0.4-0.5 mm. Anther filaments about 0.4-0.6 mm long, anthers globose, about 0.5 x 0.4 mm. Styles about 0.4-0.9 mm long, each style with two stigmatic branches.

## Fruit

Fruits globular, about 6-7 x 4-6 mm, calyx persistent at the base of the fruit. Seeds about 3-5 mm long, +/- hemispherical, enclosed in a bony endocarp. Cotyledons curved, about 2.5-3 mm long, wider than the radicle. Radicle about 1 mm long.

## Seedlings

Cotyledons obreniform, wider than long about 7 x 10 mm, apex excavated, base truncate, petiole hairy. First pair of leaves +/- orbicular, apex obtuse, base obtuse, margins ciliate, underside almost white. At the tenth leaf stage: stipules hairy, about 4-5 mm long. Leaf blade obovate to elliptic, apex mucronate, base obtuse, much paler on the underside. Midrib depressed on the upper surface. Seed germination time 206 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ and CEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 500 m. Grows in open forest, vine thickets, monsoon forest and the drier types of rain forest. Also occurs in Asia and Malesia.

## Natural History & Notes

This is a typical tree of waste ground. It is apparently well known in village-medicine and it is said in folk-tales that both tiger and crocodile sprung from its shade. Strange feat for such a dreary tree! Corner (1982).

## Synonyms

***Bridelia tomentosa* Blume var. *tomentosa***, *Prodromus* 15(2.: 501(1866). ***Bridelia tomentosa* var. *trichadenia* Mull.Arg.**, *Prodromus* 15(2.: 501(1866), Type: Northern Territory, Arnhemland, F. Mueller s.n.; holo: G-DC. ***Bridelia tomentosa* var. *ovoidea* Benth.**, *Flora Australiensis* 6: 120(1873), Type: Northern Territory, Wood Island, Gulliver s.n.; holo: K; iso: MEL. ***Bridelia tomentosa* var. *glabrifolia* (Merr.) Airy Shaw**, *Kew Bulletin* 31: 383(1976). ***Bridelia phyllanthoides* W.Fitzg.**, *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Western Australia* 3: 163(1918), Type: Western Australia, Base of Mt. Broome, 1905, W.V.Fitzgerald 823; holo: NSW. ***Bridelia tomentosa* var. *eriantha* Airy Shaw**, *Kew Bulletin* 31: 384(1976), Type: Northern Territory, About 6 miles [10 km] N. of Pine Creek Township, 6 Mar. 1965, M. Lazarides 145 & L. G. Adams; holo: K; iso: BRI, CANB, DNA, NSW.

## RFK Code

3453



Flowers. © R.L. Barrett



Flowers. © R.L. Barrett



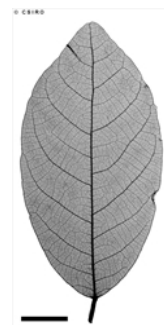
Leaves and flowers. © R.L. Barrett



Leaves, flowers and fruit. © R.L. Barrett



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO





10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, Epigeal germination. © CSIRO

