Cinnamomum oliveri F.M.Bailey

Family:
Lauraceae

Bailey, F.M. (1892) *Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock. Botany Bulletin* 5: 24. Type: Maroochie, F.M.Bailey3; L. D. Low; holo: (BRI 23599).

Common name:
Cinnamonwood; Black Sassafras; Camphorwood; Oliver's Bark; Sassafras; Sassafras, Black; Sassafras, Oliver's; Oliver's Sassafras

Stem

Strong sarsaparilla odour in the blaze.

Leaves

Freshly broken twigs emitting an odour like that of sarsaparilla. Twigs terete, glabrous. Leaf blades about 8.5-17 x 2-5.2 cm, green or glaucous and glabrous on the underside. Midrib raised on the upper surface. Petioles flat or channelled on the upper surface. Oil dots visible with a lens.

Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO

Flowers

Tepals about 3-4.1 mm long. Stamens nine (six opening inwards and three opening outwards). Staminodes three.

Fruit

Fruiting receptacle or cupule entire at the apex. Fruits about 18 x 14 mm when ripe.

Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO

Seedlings

At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade penninerved, slightly glaucous on the underside; oil dots small, visible with a lens. Seed germination time 21 to 39 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Australia, occurs in CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards to south-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range from sea level to 1000 m. Grows in well developed rain forest on a variety of sites but tending to favour the drier or more seasonal rain forests in CYP and NEQ. This species is rarely encountered in NEQ.

10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

Natural History & Notes

Food plant for the larval stages of the Blue Triangle Butterfly. Common & Waterhouse (1981).

This species may have medicinal properties.

The bark has a strong aromatic perfume and a 9% tannin content which made it astringent. For these two reasons it was used as a relatively pleasant diarrhoea treatment, and was prescribed as such by doctors of the late nineteenth century. Cribb (1981).

This species produces millable logs and the sawn timber is marketed as Camphorwood, a useful general purpose timber. Wood specific gravity 0.56-0.66. Hyland (1989).

Cotyledon stage, hypogeal germination. © CSIRO

Synonyms

Cryptocarya camphorata (Meisn.) Domin, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 675(1928). **Cryptocarya glaucescens var. camphorata Meisn.**, *Prodromus* 15(1): 73(1864), Type: Illawarra, MacArthur 201; holo: K.

RFK Code

512

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