Cryptocarya laevigata Blume

Family: Lauraceae
Blume, C.L. von (1827) *Bijdragen tot de Flora van Nederlandsch Indie No. 7*: 556. Type: in sylvis montanis. Java (?).

Common name: Glossy Laurel; Grey Sassafras; Laurel, Glossy; Red Fruited Laurel; Sassafras, Grey

Stem
Seldom exceeding 30 cm dbh. Blaze odour may be conspicuous and quite pleasant resembling that of Red Cedar (Toona ciliata).

Leaves
Twigs +/- terete (slightly fluted, only when very young), clothed in straight, white or pale brown, appressed hairs when very young but soon becoming glabrous. Leaf blades about 5-15.5 x 1.3-6.1 cm, green and glabrous on the underside at maturity, with a few sparsely scattered straight, white or pale brown, appressed hairs visible only on very young leaves. Midrib usually flush with the upper surface (sometimes slightly raised). Petioles channelled on the upper surface. Oil dots visible with a lens.

Flowers
Inflorescence racemose or paniculate, not exceeding the leaves. Flowers pleasantly perfumed or without any obvious odour. Lower half of the perianth tube glabrous on the inner surface. Tepals about 2.2-3.2 mm long, glabrous on the outer surface. Ovary and style glabrous.

Fruit
Fruits globular, depressed globular, ellipsoid or ovoid, about 17-33 x 17-38 mm. Endocarp longitudinally ribbed. Cotyledons white or cream.

Seedlings
First pair of leaves elliptic, lanceolate or ovate, about 45-70 x 22-30 mm, green on the underside. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade strongly 3-veined; oil dots small, numerous, visible only with a lens. Petiole sparsely hairy. Seed germination time 47 to 405 days.

Distribution and Ecology
Occurs in NEQ and also in south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales but not in coastal central Queensland. Altitudinal range from sea level to 450 m. Grows as an understory tree in well developed lowland rain forest. Also occurs in Malesia.

Natural History & Notes
Leaf material of this species was active against tumor cell cultures. Collins et al. (1990).

This species has no commercial value as it seldom grows large enough to produce millable logs. Wood specific gravity 0.86-0.91. Hyland (1989).

Synonyms

RFK Code
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