

Cryptocarya rhodosperma B.Hyland

Family:
Lauraceae

Hyland, B.P.M. (1989) *Australian Systematic Botany* 2: 204. Type: B. Gray 3077: State Forest Reserve 310, Cooktown, 25.v.1982, 25.v.1983 (QRS, holotypus).

Stem

Lenticels tend to be in sinuous longitudinal lines. Blaze odour may resemble that of peaches (*Prunus persica*).

Leaves

Twigs fluted and clothed in straight and tortuous, pale brown, erect hairs which persist to some extent, even on old twigs. Leaf blades about 8-14.5 x 3-8 cm, glaucous on the underside, clothed in straight and tortuous, white and pale brown, erect hairs when young, eventually becoming almost glabrous. Midrib usually depressed, sometimes almost flush with the upper surface. Petioles flat or channelled on the upper surface. Oil dots visible with a lens.

Flowers

Inflorescence panicle, approximating or exceeding the leaves. Flowers faintly but unpleasantly (?) perfumed. Lower half of the perianth tube glabrous on the inner surface. Tepals about 1.5-2.1 mm long, pubescent on the outer surface. Ovary and style glabrous.

Fruit

Fruits ellipsoid, about 16-27 x 9.5-16.5 mm. Cotyledons pink or purplish.

Seedlings

Usually 2 cataphylls produced before the true leaves. First pair of true leaves ovate or lanceolate, about 50-85 x 23-45 mm, glaucous on the underside. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade hairy on the upper surface at least along the midrib and main lateral veins, underside glaucous; oil dots very small, difficult to see. Stem, petiole and underside of leaves densely clothed in pale brown hairs. Seed germination time 18 to 51 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Queensland, occurs in CYP and NEQ. Altitudinal range from 40-120 m. Grows as an understory tree in lowland rain forest and drier more seasonal rain forest.

Natural History & Notes

This species grows large enough to produce millable logs but it is rare in accessible areas and has not been utilized to date. Wood specific gravity about 0.78. Hyland (1989).

RFK Code

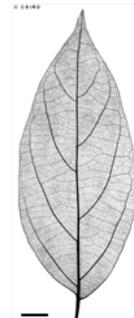
820



© CSIRO



Fruit, two views, cross section and seed. © W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Habit, flower, anther, staminode, gland, fruit, seedling. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, hypogeal germination. © CSIRO

