Denhamia oleaster (Lindl.) F.Muell.

Family:

Celastraceae

Mueller, F.J.H. von (1859) *Transactions and Proceedings of the Philosophical Institute of Victoria* 3: 29.

Stem

A thin orange layer usually conspicuous beneath the dead bark. Outer and inner blazes often distinct.

Leaves

Leaf blades about 4-8 x 1-3.5 cm. Larger twigs with a thin orange layer under the dead bark.

Flowers

Sepals about 1 x 1.5 mm. Petals about 3-3.5 x 3 mm. Staminal filaments about 1.3 mm long or longer. Ovary about 1 x 1 mm. Style about 0.4-1 mm long. Ovary with about 8-10 ovules per locule (rarely reduced to six).

Fruit

Capsules with woody valves. Capsules about 1.5-2.8 cm long.

Seedlings

Cotyledons elliptic, about 20-25 x 11-15 mm. At the tenth leaf stage and earlier: leaves quite stiff, margins dentate-aristate, holly-like (Ilex aquifolium); stipules very small. Seed germination time 22 to 54 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Queensland, occurs in CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as southern inland Queensland. Altitudinal range from sea level to 900 m. Grows in open forest and brigalow scrub but appears to attain its best development in monsoon forest at least in the northern part of its range.

Synonyms

Leucocarpum oleaster (Lindl.) F.Muell., *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 6: 203(1868). **Melicytus oleaster Lindl.**, *Journal of an Expedition into the Interior of Tropical Australia* : 383(1848), Type: Qld, St Georges Bridge, Balonne River, T. L. Mitchell s.n.; syn: MEL. **Denhamia heterophylla F.Muell.**, *Transactions and Proceedings of the Philosophical Institute of Victoria* 3: 29(1859), Type: On scrubby ridges from the Gilbert River to the Burdekin River, F. Mueller; syn: MEL.

RFK Code

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Leaves and dehiscing fruit. © CSIRO

Leaves and fruits. © A. Ford & F. Goulter

Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO

Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO

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10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

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