

# *Diospyros pentamera* (Woolfs & F.Muell. ex F.Muell.) F.Muell.

## Family:

Ebenaceae

Mueller, F.J.H. von (1867) *Austral. Veg.*: 35.

## Common name:

Ebony, Myrtle; Plum, Grey; Myrtle Ebony; Grey Plum; Grey Persimmon; Black Myrtle; Grey Ebony

## Stem

Tree to 35 m. Outer dead bark brown to almost black.

## Leaves

Terminal buds and young shoots clothed in pale brown prostrate hairs. Leaf blades about 34-11 x 1-4 cm, much paler on the underside (yellowish green). Glands about 2-12 small, dark, scattered on the underside of the leaf blade. Lateral veins 7-11 pairs, forming a double series of loops inside the blade margin.

## Flowers

Male and female flower outer surface of the calyx and corolla densely clothed in pale (calyx gold, corolla white) prostrate hairs. Male inflorescence axes solitary or a few in leaf axils, each with 3-10 flowers. Male flowers calyx tube 1.5-1.7 mm long, lobes (4-)5(-6), 1.2-1.4 mm long; corolla tube 1.5-1.7 mm long, lobes mostly 5, 3 mm long; stamens 15-20, 3.7-4.5 mm long, filaments fused at base and fused to corolla tube; pistillode ca. 1 mm long. Female flowers calyx tube 2.5-3 mm long, lobes 4 or 5, 2-2.5 mm long; corolla tube 1.5-2.2 mm long, lobes 4 or 5, 3-3.8 mm long; staminodes 10-12.

## Fruit

Fruits seated on a 5-lobed sericeous persistent calyx appressed to fruit. Fruits +/- globular, about 14-18 mm long x 10-15 mm wide, 1-seeded; seeds 8-12mm long.

## Seedlings

Cotyledons linear, about 10-12 x 1 mm. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade with a few scattered hairs on both the upper and lower surfaces; scattered oil dots easily seen with a lens. Seed germination time 143 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Australia, occurs in NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as south-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range in NEQ from 400-1100 m. Grows in various types of rain forest often associated with Kauri Pine (*Agathis robusta*).

## Natural History & Notes

Fruit eaten by several species of birds. Cooper & Cooper (1994).

## Synonyms

***Cargillia pentamera* F.Muell.**, *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 4: 82(1864), Type: In insula Ash Island ad flumen Hunters River, Miss Scott, W. Woolfs; ad fluvium Clarence River, H. Beckler, C. Moore, J. Wilcox. ***Cargillia arborea* Hiern**, *Transactions of the Cambridge Philosophical Society* 12(1) : 239(1873), Type: [Nom. inval.].

## RFK Code

141



Male flowers and buds. © CSIRO



Male flowers and buds. © CSIRO



Leaves, male flowers and buds. © CSIRO



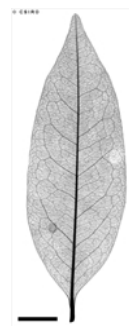
Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Fruit, three views, cross section and seeds. © W. T. Cooper



A. male flower; B. dissected corolla showing stamens and pistillode, male flower; C. female flower; D. dissected corolla showing staminodes, female flower; E. dissected ovary, female flower; F. fruit. © Queensland Herbarium



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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