

Endospermum myrmecophilum L.S.Sm.

Family:

Euphorbiaceae

Smith, L.S. (1947) *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 58: 56. Type: Yalu, on rain-forest margin, C.T. White, H.E. Dadswell & L.S. Smith NGF.1640, July 1944.

Common name:

Endospermum; Moon Tree; Toywood

Stem

Orange-yellow speckles and layers conspicuous in the blaze. Blaze odour resembling that of beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) or peas (*Pisum sativum*).

Leaves

Leaf blades usually large, about 10-35 cm long, the base +/- cordate, peltate or lobed. Two rather large pale coloured glands on the underside of the leaf blade at its junction with the petiole. Similar glands may occur where the lateral veins fork.

Flowers

Inflorescence a panicle of short spikes. Male flowers: Flowers about 3 mm diam. Perianth tube about 2 mm long, lobes about 1.1 mm long, clothed in short crisped hairs. About 6-8 +/- peltate, sessile anthers fused to a fleshy androphore (staminal column) about 4 mm long. Hermaphrodite flowers: Flowers about 3 mm diam. Perianth clothed in short crisped hairs. Anthers about 10 +/- peltate and sessile, fused to the lower part of the androgynophore. Androgynophore about 4 mm long with about 2 mm of this length extending beyond the anther zone. Stigma covering the apex of the androgynophore. One ovule per ovary.

Fruit

Fruits about 10 x 8 mm. Calyx and stigma persistent on the fruit.

Seedlings

Cotyledons obovate, about 20-25 mm long with 3-5 veins radiating from the petiole. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade cordate, peltate, hairy on both the upper and lower surfaces; a pair of glands occurs on the underside of the leaf blade at its junction with the petiole; glands also sometimes occur on the underside of the leaf blade at forks on the lateral veins. Seed germination time 87 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NT, CYP and NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 150 m. Grows in well developed rain forest but frequently regenerating on the margins of rain forest. Also occurs in New Guinea.

Natural History & Notes

Produces a light-weight, non-durable, general purpose timber.

Wood specific gravity 0.43. Cause et al. (1989).

Synonyms

Endospermum medulosum L.S.Sm., *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 58: 53(1947), Type: Lae, in rain forest, C.T. White, H.E. Dadswell & L.S. Smith NGF.1738, August 1944.

RFK Code

424



Female flowers. © CSIRO



Male flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Fruit [not vouchered]. © G. Sankowsky



Leaf underside and glands [not vouchered]. © G. Sankowsky



Leaves [not vouchered]. © G. Sankowsky



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

