

Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants - Online edition

Family Profile

Euphorbiaceae

Family Description

A family of about 300 genera and 7500 species, cosmopolitan but reaching its best development in tropical and subtropical areas.

Genera

Acalypha - A genus of more than 400 species, pantropical but also extending north and south of the tropics; six species occur naturally in Australia and two species have become naturalised. Forster (1994b); Webster (1994b).

Alchornea - A genus of about 50-70 species, pantropic; three species occur naturally in Australia. Airy Shaw (1976, 1980b); Webster (1994b).

Aleurites - A genus of two species in Asia, Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands; two species occur naturally in Australia. Airy Shaw (1980b); Forster (1996); Stuppy et al (1999).

Baloghia - A genus of about 15 species in New Guinea, Australia, Norfolk Island, Lord Howe Island and New Caledonia; three species occur naturally in Australia. Green (1986); Webster (1994b); White (1942).

Bertya - A genus of about 28 species endemic to Australia. Halford & Henderson (2002); Guymer (1988); Webster (1994b).

Claoxylon - A genus of about 113 species in Madagascar, Asia, Malesia, Australia and the western Pacific islands; four species occur naturally in Australia, three are endemic. Airy Shaw (1980a, 1980b); Forster (2007); Webster (1994b).

Cleidion - A genus of 20-25 species, pantropic; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Airy Shaw (1980a, 1980b).

Codiaeum - A genus of about 15 species in Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands; two species occur naturally in Australia. Airy Shaw (1980a, 1980b); Webster (1994b).

Croton - A large and diverse genus of about 750-800 or more species, pantropic; about 20 species occur naturally in Australia. Airy Shaw (1980a, 1980b); Forster (1991); Webster (1994b); Forster (2003).

Dimorphocalyx - A genus of 12-15 species in Asia, Malesia and Australia; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Airy Shaw (1969, 1974); Webster (1994b).

Endospermum - A genus of 12-14 species in Asia, Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Airy Shaw (1980a, 1980b); Guerrero & Welzen (2011); Schaeffer (1971); Smith (1947).

Euphorbia - A vast genus of about 1000-2000 species, cosmopolitan; about 35 species occur naturally in Australia and about 19 species have become naturalised. Forster (1994c); Hassall (1977); Webster (1994b); White (1942).

Excoecaria - A small tropical genus with most species in Asia but with a few species extending to Africa, Madagascar, Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands; four species occur naturally in Australia. Airy Shaw (1980a); Cooper & Cooper 2004; Harden et al. (2014); Webster (1994b); Webser (2014).

Fontainea - A genus of about ten species in New Guinea, Australia and New Caledonia; six species occur naturally in Australia. Jessup & Guymer (1985).

Homalanthus - A genus of about 20-30 species in Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands as far as Tahiti; three species occur naturally in Australia. Esser (1997); Forster (1994d); Webster (1994b).

Hylandia - A monotypic genus endemic to Australia. Airy Shaw (1974).

Macaranga - A genus of about 250-300 species in Africa, Asia, Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands; seven species occur naturally in Australia. Airy Shaw (1980a, 1980b); Webster (1994b).

Mallotus - A genus of about 140-150 species in Africa, Madagascar, Asia, Malesia, Australia, New Caledonia, Fiji and other Pacific islands; about 12 species occur naturally in Australia. Airy Shaw (1980a, 1980b); Forster (1999b); Harden et al. (2014); Webster (1994b).

Manihot - A genus of about 98 species from tropical and subtropical America; three species are occasionally naturalised in Australia. Forster (1997c).

Microstachys - A genus of about 14 species mainly neotropical but with a few species in temperate North America, Asia and Australia; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Webster (1994b); Esser (1999).

Omphalea - A genus of about 17 species, pantropic; three species occur naturally in Australia. Forster (1995b); Webster (2014).

Pimelodendron - A genus of five species in Malesia, Australia and the Solomon Islands; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Airy Shaw (1980a); Djarwamingsih (2004).

Ricinocarpos - A genus of about 15 species endemic to Australia. Webster (1994b).

Ricinus - A monotypic genus, originally native in Africa, but early dispersed by man to India; now widely cultivated and naturalised. In Australia found in all mainland states and declared a noxious weed in some jurisdictions. Green (1994); Harden et al. (2014); Webster (2014).

Rockinghamia - A genus of two species endemic to Australia. Airy Shaw (1966, 1976); Webster (1994b).

Shonia - A genus of four species endemic to Australia.

Suregada - A genus of about 40 species in Africa, Madagascar, Asia, Malesia and Australia; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Airy Shaw (1976).

Tragia - A genus of about 125 species mainly in tropical Africa and the Americas; three species occur naturally in Australia. Forster (1994e, 1997d); Harden et al. (2014).

Trigonostemon - A genus of about 100 spp., distributed from India and China south and east to the Philippines, northern Australia (Queensland), New Guinea, and Fiji. One species is endemic to Australia. Airy Shaw (1976); Airy Shaw (1980a); Cooper & Cooper (2004); Webster (2014).

Wetria - A genus of two species in Asia, Malesia and Australia; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Forster (1994a); Welzen (1998).

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