Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants - Online edition

Family Profile

Fabaceae

Family Description

A family of about 766 genera and 19,580 species, cosmopolitan; about 115 genera occur naturally in Australia.

Genera

Abrus - A pantropic genus of about 12 species; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Stanley & Ross (1983).

Acacia - A genus of about 1200 species in Africa, Asia, Malesia, Australia and tropical America; about 650-900 species occur naturally in Australia. McDonald & Maslin (2000); Maslin et al. (2001); Pedley (1978, 1979, 1987, 1990).

Adenanthera - A genus of about eight species in Asia, Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands; two species occur naturally in Australia. Cowan (1998a); White (1950).

Aeschynomene - A genus of about 150 species in tropical and warm temperate regions in America, Africa and Asia. Polhill & Raven (1981).

Albizia - A genus of about 100-150 species, pantropic; six species occur naturally in Australia. Backer & Bakhuizen van den Brink (1963); Cowan (1998e); Cronquist (1981); Dunlop et al. (1995); Hutchison (1969).

Archidendron - A genus of about 90-100 species in Asia, Malesia, Australia and the Solomon Islands; 10 species occur naturally in Australia. Cowan (1998j); Nielsen (1982, 1992).

Archidendropsis - A genus of about 140 species in Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands; three species occur naturally in Australia. Cooper & Cooper (2004); Cowan (1998h); Harden et al. (2014); Nielsen et al. (1983).

Austrocallerya - A genus of three species endemic to Australia. Compton et al (2019); Cooper et al (2019).

Austrosteenisia - A genus of four species in Australia and perhaps New Guinea; all species occur naturally in Australia. Dixon (1997).

Bauhinia - A genus of about 300 species in tropical America, Africa and Asia; one species has become naturalised in Australia. George (1998b); Wit (1956).

Biancaea - A genus of six species in Asia; one species has become naturalised in Australia. Gagnon et al (2016)

Bossiaea - A genus of about 35-40 species endemic to Australia. Polhill & Raven (1981); Ross (1991); Stanley & Ross (1983).

Caesalpinia - A genus of about 9 species, now only in the Neotropcs. Two species remain included in *Caesalpinia* here due to nomenclatural problems but are likely to move to the genus *Ticanto* (Gagnon et al, 2016). Ding Hou et al. (1996); George (1998a); Hattink (1974); Pedley (1997); Gagnon et al (2016).

Cajanus - A genus of about 35-40 species mainly in Asia, Malesia and Australia with one species in Africa; about 20 species occur naturally in Australia. Hnatiuk (1990); Polhill & Raven (1981).

Calopogonium - A genus of eight species in the Americas; one species has become naturalised in Australia. Verdcourt (1979).

Canavalia - A genus of more than 50 species, pantropic, mainly in the Americas; four species occur naturally in Australia and one species has become naturalised. Hacker (1990); Verdcourt (1979).

Cassia - A genus of about 30 species, cosmopolitan but more common in the tropics. Two species occur naturally in Australia. Hou et al. (1996); Irwin & Barneby (1981); Randell (1988, 1989, 1991); Randell & Barlow (1998a); Symon (1966); White (1939).

Castanospermum - A monotypic genus in Australia, New Caledonia and Vanuatu. Francis (1970).

Cathormion - A genus of about 15 species in Asia, Malesia and Australia; one species occur naturally in Australia. Cowan (1998k); Kostermans (1954).

Centrosema - A genus of 40-50 species in tropical America; two species have become naturalised in Australia. Hacker (1990); Verdcourt (1979).

Christia - A genus of about 10 species in Asia to Australia; two species occur in Australia.

Clitoria - A pantropic genus of about 40 species. Stanley & Ross (1983). Two species now occur in Australia, one may be a natural occurrence.

Crotalaria - A genus of about 600 species, pantropic but also in the subtropics particularly in the southern hemisphere, very numerous in tropical Africa; 36 species occur naturally in Australia and 16-17 species have become naturalised. Holland (2002); Polhill & Raven (1981); Stanley & Ross (1983).

Crudia - A genus of about 50-55 species, pantropic; two species occur naturally in Australia.

Cynometra - A genus of 85 species, pantropic; four species occur naturally in Australia. Cooper (2015); Cowan & Polhill (1981); Hou et al. (1996); Meeuwen (1970); Radosavljevic (2019).

Dalbergia - A genus of about 100 species, pantropic; two or three species occur naturally in Australia and one species has become naturalised. Hnatiuk (1990); Polhill & Raven (1981); Verdcourt (1979).

Delonix - A genus of ten species in Africa, the Middle East and India; one species has become naturalised in Australia. Hou et al. (1996); Ross (1998b).

Dendrolobium - A genus of 12 species in Africa, Madagascar, Asia, Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands; two species occur naturally in Australia. Hutchinson (1964); Pedley (1999); Polhill & Raven (1981).

Derris - A genus of about 50 species, pantropic with most species in Asia; about five species occur naturally in Australia. Verdcourt (1979); Sirichamorn et al (2014).

Desmodium - A genus of about 300 species, in the tropics and subtropics with centres of diversity in eastern Asia, Mexico and Brazil; about 30 species occur naturally in Australia and several species have become naturalised. Pedley (1999); Polhill & Raven (1981); Stanley & Ross (1983).

Dichrostachys - A genus of about 14 species in Africa to Australia; one species occurs naturally in Australia.

Dioclea - A genus of about 30 species mainly in the Americas but also extending to the tropical areas of Asia, Malesia and Australia; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Verdcourt (1979).

Entada - A genus of 30 species in Asia, Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands; two species occur naturally in Australia. Cowan (1998b); Nielsen (1992).

Erythrina - A genus of about 100 species, pantropic; three species occur naturally in Australia. Krukoff & Barneby (1974).

Erythrophleum - A genus of nine species in Africa, Madagascar, Asia, Malesia and Australia; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Blake (1954); Ross (1998d).

Falcataria - A genus of two species in Malesia and NE Australia, one species occurs naturally in Australia. Brown et al (2011); Cowan (1998g); Nielsen et al. (1983).

Flemingia - A genus of 30-35 species in Africa, Asia, Malesia and Australia; five species occur naturally in Australia and one species has become naturalised. Polhill & Raven (1981); Stanley & Ross (1983).

Galactia - A pantropic genus of about 140 species. Three described species occur naturally in Australia. Stanley & Ross (1983). Three or more undescribed species also occur naturally in Australia.

Glycine - A genus of about 10 species in Africa, Asia and Australia. Stanley & Ross (1983). The number of species recognized in the genus will need to be revised as there are about 10 undescribed species in Queensland. Henderson (1997).

Guilandina - A pantropic genus that requires taxonomic revision, with 6-19 species (Gagnon et al, 2016). One species occurs naturally in Australia. Gagnon et al (2016).

Hanslia - A genus of two species in Malesia, the western Pacific and Australia. One species occurs naturally in Australia. Ohashi (2004)

Hardenbergia - A genus of two or three species endemic to Australia.

Hovea - A genus of about 31 species endemic to Australia. Polhill & Raven (1981); Thompson (2001).

Indigofera - A genus of about 700 species in the tropics and subtropics; about 43 species occur naturally in Australia and about 3 species have become naturalised. Polhill & Raven (1981); Stanley & Ross (1983).

Intsia - A genus of three species in Madagascar, Asia, Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Hou et al. (1996); Ross (1986, 1998h).

Kennedia - A genus of 15 species endemic to Australia. Polhill & Raven (1981).

Labichea - A genus of 14 species endemic to Australia. Irwin & Barneby (1981); Ross (1998f).

Leucaena - A genus of about 50 species in tropical America; one species has become naturalised in Australia. Corner (1988); Cowan (1998d); Nielsen (1992).

Macroptilium - A genus of about 20 species from tropical America; two species have become naturalised in Australia. Verdcourt (1979).

Macrotyloma - A genus of about 24 species in Africa, Asia, Malesia and Australia. Polhill & Raven (1981). One species occurs naturally in Australia.

Maniltoa - A genus of 20-25 species in Asia, Malesia, Australia and Fiji; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Hou et al. (1996); Meeuwen (1970); Verdcourt (1977); Ross (1998g).

Mezoneuron - A genus of 24 species in Africa, Asia, Malesia, Australia and the Pacific; 5 species occur naturally in Australia. Gagnon et al (2016).

Mimosa - A genus of about 400 species, mainly tropical, particularly well developed in the Americas; three species have become naturalised in Australia. Cowan (1998c); Hacker (1990); Nielsen (1992).

Mucuna - A genus of about 100 species, pantropic; three species occur naturally in Australia and one species has become naturalised. Verdcourt (1979, 1981).

Neonotonia - A monotypic genus in Africa and Asia now naturalised in Australia and New Guinea. Polhill & Raven (1981); Verdcourt (1979).

Ormosia - A genus of about 100 species, pantropic; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Meeuwen (1962).

Pachyrhizus - A genus of four or five species from tropical and subtropical America. Polhill & Raven (1981). One or two species now cultivated and naturalised in various tropical regions. Verdcourt (1979).

Pararchidendron - A monotypic genus in Malesia and Australia. Cowan (1998i); Nielsen et al. (1983, 1984).

Parkinsonia - A genus of about 11-15 species in the Americas and Africa; one species has become naturalised in Australia. Polhill & Vidal (1981); Ross (1998c); Stanley & Ross (1983).

Peltophorum - A genus of nine to fifteen species, pantropic; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Blake (1954); Hou et al. (1996); Ross (1998a).

Phylacium - A genus of three species in Asia, Malesia and Australia; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Verdcourt (1979).

Phyllodium - A genus of about 6-10 species in SE Asia and Australia. Polhill & Raven (1981). Three species occur naturally in Australia. Pedley (1999).

Piliostigma - A genus of three species in Africa, Asia, Malesia and Australia; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Blake (1954); Wit (1956).

Pongamia - A monotypic genus in Asia, Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands; two varieties occur naturally in Australia. Adema (2000); Cooper et al (2019).

Pueraria - A genus of about 15-20 species in Asia and Malesia; two species have become naturalised in Australia. Verdcourt (1979).

Rhynchosia - A genus of about 200 species, pantropic and also in the subtropics; three or more species occur naturally in Australia. Hacker (1990); Verdcourt (1979).

Samanea - A genus of 20 species in Africa and tropical America; one species has become naturalised in Australia. Corner (1988); Cowan (1998f).

Senegalia - A genus of approximately 86 species and 2 varieties in the Americas, 69 taxa in Africa, 43 taxa in Asia, and 2 taxa in Australia (Seigler et al, 2006); two taxa have become naturalised in Australia. One taxon is still awaiting the nomenclatural combination to be created in the genus (Acaia pennata subsp. kerrii I.C.Nielsen).

Senna - A genus of about 350 species, pantropic; about 60 species occur naturally in Australia and numerous species have become naturalised. Ding Hou et al. (1996); Harden et al. (2014); Randell (1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1995); Randell & Barlow (1998b).

Sesbania - A genus of about 50 species, pantropic; about ten species occur naturally in Australia. Polhill & Raven (1981); Burbidge (1965).

Solori - A genus of ca. 12 species in India to SE Asia, New Guinea and Australia. Two species occur in Australia. Sirichamorn et a (2014).

Sophora - A genus of about 45-50 species, pantropic, mostly in Eurasia and North America; two species occur naturally in Australia. Polhill & Raven (1981).

Storckiella - A genus of four species in Australia, New Caledonia and Fiji; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Ross (1998e); Ross & Hyland (1983).

Strongylodon - A genus of about 15-20 species in Madagascar, Asia, Malesia, Australia and the Pacific islands; one species occurs naturally in Australia. Verdcourt (1979).

Stylosanthes - A genus of about 25-50 species in the tropics and warm temperate regions of the Old and New World; four or five species have become naturalised in Australia. Polhill & Raven (1981); Hacker (1990); Reynolds (1990).

Tamarindus - A monotypic genus probably endemic to Africa but now widely cultivated throughout the tropics and has become naturalised in Australia. Hou et al. (1996); Ross (1998i).

Tephrosia - A genus of more than 400 species, pantropic but particularly rich in Africa; about 55 species occur naturally in Australia. Polhill & Raven (1981); Stanley & Ross (1983).

Vandasina - A monotypic genus in Malesia, Australia and Papua New Guinea. Polhill & Raven (1981); Verdcourt (1979).

Vigna - A pantropic genus of about 150 species. Polhill & Raven (1981). About 10 species occur naturally in Australia. Stanley & Ross (1983).

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