

Gossia bidwillii (Benth.) N.Snow & Guymer

Family:

Myrtaceae

Snow, N. & Guymer, G.P. (2003) *Systematic Botany Monographs* 65: 39. Type: Comb. nov.

Common name:

Scrub Ironwood; Python Tree; Smooth Barked Ironwood; Lignum; Lignum-vitae

Stem

A small tree. Bark reddish brown.

Leaves

Oil dots quite numerous. Midrib grooved or depressed on the upper surface. Lateral veins forming loops inside the blade margin. Leaf blades about 4.8-6.8 x 1.5-3.8 cm.

Flowers

Petals and sepals pubescent adaxially, margins fimbriate. Petals about 3-4 mm long. Petal oil dots yellowish.

Fruit

Fruits globular or depressed globular, about 7-8 mm diam., calyx lobes persistent at the apex. Testa membranous. Embryo coiled with the cotyledons +/- in the middle of the spiral. Cotyledons much more slender than the radicle.

Seedlings

Cotyledons lanceolate, about 4-7 x 1-1.5 mm. Oil dots clearly visible with a lens, more numerous near the margin. Stipules occur at the cotyledon and early leaf stages but are extremely small. Hypocotyl swollen. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade ovate or elliptic, about 15-24 x 6-12 mm, apex mucronate; oil dots numerous, clearly visible with a lens. Lateral veins forming loops inside the blade margin. Seed germination time 6 to 16 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Australia, occurs in NEQ, CEQ and southwards to central New South Wales. Altitudinal range from 300-800 m. Grows in monsoon forest and similar dry rain forest situations.

Natural History & Notes

Also refer to the Notes under *Gossia* sp. Green Bark (B.Hyland 25370RFK).

Synonyms

***Austromyrtus* sp. (Forty Mile Scrub GCS 1785)**. : (), Type: Provisional name (Hispid Name.).

***Austromyrtus bidwillii* (Bentham) Burret**, *Notizb. Bot. Gart. Berlin_Dahlem* 15: 501(1941).

***Myrtus bidwillii* Bentham**, *Flora Australiensis* 3: 275(1867), Type: Queensland, Wide Bay, J.C.

Bidwill s. n.; Holo: K. ***Myrtus racemulosa* var. *conferta* Bentham**, *Flora Australiensis* 3:

276(1867), Type: Queensland, Port Denison, E.F.A. Fitzalan s.n.; Holo: K; Iso: K, MEL. ***Myrtus***

***racemulosa* Bentham**, *Flora Australiensis* 3: 276(1867), Type: Queensland, Edgecombe Bay, J.

Dallachy s.n.; Lecto: MEL; iso: K. ***Austromyrtus racemulosa* Burret**, *Notizb. Bot. Gart.*

Berlin_Dahlem 15: 501(1941).

RFK Code

796

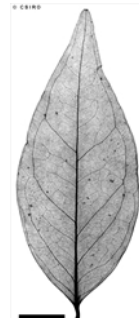


Flowers [not vouchered]. © G.

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Leaves and flowers [not vouchered]. © G. Sankowsky



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Trunk [not vouchered]. © G. Sankowsky

