**Gossia floribunda** (A.J.Scott) N.Snow & Guymer

**Family:**
Myrtaceae


**Common name:**
Cape Ironwood; Lignum

**Stem**
Bark very pale brown but in patches giving a piebald appearance. Living bark layer very thin, about 1 mm.

**Leaves**
Oil dots visible with a lens. Midrib raised on the upper surface. Leaf blades about 4-7 x 2-3 cm.

**Flowers**
Petals and calyx lobes glabrous adaxially, margins fimbriate. Petals about 3-4 mm long with about 60 oil dots per petal.

**Fruit**
Fruits globular or depressed globular, about 6-7 mm diam., calyx lobes persistent at the apex. Embryo coiled and/or twisted with the cotyledons +/- in the middle of the spiral. Cotyledons much more slender than the radicle.

**Seedlings**
Cotyledons ovate to elliptic, about 10-18 x 4-5 mm; stipules present. Intramarginal vein present. Oil dots very small, visible with a lens. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade elliptic, midrib distinctly raised on the upper surface. Stem longitudinally ribbed at least near the apex. Seed germination time 6 to 23 days.

**Distribution and Ecology**
Occurs in CYP and NEQ. Altitudinal range from sea level to 200 m. Grows as an understory tree in a variety of forest types including gallery forest, monsoon forest, dry rain forest and beach forest. Also occurs in New Guinea.

**Natural History & Notes**
A smooth barked shrub or small tree deserving a place in tropical gardens. The small white flowers are produced in abundance.

**Synonyms**

**RFK Code**
783
Cotyledon and 1st leaf stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO

10th leaf stage. © CSIRO