

Grevillea pteridifolia Knight

Family:

Proteaceae

Salisbury, R.A. in Knight, J. (1809) *On the Cultivation of the Plants Belonging to the Natural Order of Proteaceae*: 121. Type: This species was discovered by Sir JOSEPH BANKS, near Endeavour River, and has never been in our gardens.

Common name:

Oak, Ferny-leaved Silky; Silky Grevillea; Oak, Fernleaf Woodland; Kimberley Christmas Tree; Grevillea, Silky; Grevillea, Golden; Golden Toothbrush; Golden Parrot Tree; Golden Grevillea; Ferny-leaved Silky Oak; Fernleaf Woodland Oak; Fern-leaved Grevillea; Grevillea, Fern-leaved

Stem

Can grow into a tree 6-8 m tall but often flowers and fruits as a shrub 3-4 m tall.

Leaves

Oak grain in the twigs. Terminal buds and young shoots densely clothed in reddish brown prostrate hairs. Leaves could be regarded as either simple and deeply lobed or compound. Leaflets or leaf lobes about 10-21 cm long, 0.1-0.5 cm wide. Leaflets or leaf blades clothed in white or light brown hairs on the underside, margin conspicuously recurved.

Flowers

Racemes secund. Perianth tube somewhat dilated towards the base. Tepals densely pubescent on the outer surface, glabrous on the inside. Hypogynous gland +/- horseshoe-shaped in outline but lobed at the apex. Ovary surrounded by a mass of long, pale hairs. Ovules 2 per ovary. Stigma terminal or slightly lateral.

Fruit

Fruits ovoid, laterally compressed, about 15-18 x 8-10 mm, outer surface densely clothed in pale hairs. Seeds with a marginal wing, seed + wing about 14-15 x 6-7 mm.

Seedlings

Cotyledons +/- linear, about 14-16 x 2-6 mm, margins ciliate. First pair of leaves simple, narrowly elliptic, about 35-40 x 5-6 mm. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade simple, margin smooth or deeply lobed, underside clothed in long, white, prostrate hairs when young. Leaves or lobes long and narrow, apex aristate, base attenuate. Terminal bud clothed in long, white, prostrate hairs. Seed germination time 26 to 51 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Australia, occurs in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ and CEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 800 m. Usually grows in open forest but sometimes found on the margins of monsoon forest and vine thickets.

Natural History & Notes

A beautiful open shrub with fine foliage and large spikes of flowers that are very attractive to birds. Used in producing many of the *Grevillea* hybrids now so popular in horticulture.

Synonyms

Grevillea pteridifolia* Knight var. *pteridifolia, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 587(1928). ***Grevillea pteridifolia* var. *typica* Domin**, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 587(1928). ***Grevillea chrysodendrum* R.Br.**, *Transactions of the Linnean Society of London, Botany* 10: 176(1810), Type: In Novae Hollandiae ora septentrionali; Carpentaria: prope littora. (ubi v.v.). ***Grevillea pteridifolia* var. *mitchellii* (Hook.) Domin**, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 587(1928), Type: Subtropical New Holland, Mitchell 166, June 1846; holo: BM? K?.

RFK Code

3156



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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