

Homalium alnifolium Thwaites & F.Muell. ex F.Muell.

Family:

Salicaceae

Mueller, F.J.H. von (1861), *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 2(15): 127. Type: "In vicinia urbis Rockhampton ad flumen Fitz Roy. A. Thozet."

Common name:

Homalium; Brown Boxwood

Stem

Shrub or tree to 13 m. Bark greyish brown, smooth. Branchlets glabrous with lenticels or moderately hairy (with hairs bent towards the apex).

Leaves

Leaves simple, alternate. New growth often reddish. Stipules 2, free, lanceolate, 1-5 mm long. Petiole short, 0.6-2 cm long, channelled above. Leaf blade broadly ovate to elliptic, usually 5-15 cm long, 3-6 cm wide, base obtuse or cuneate to decurrent, margin serrate-crenate, apex of each tooth spineless, leaf apex obtuse, acute or acuminate. Leaves glabrous or nearly so, some sparse hairs occasionally on lower leaf surfaces along midrib (towards base). Lateral veins 5-9 pair.

Flowers

Inflorescence an axillary spike, 5-13 cm long. Flowers bisexual up to 8 mm diam., sessile, subtended by 1 bract to 5 mm long and 2 smaller bracts about 2 mm long. Perianth of 14-16 similar white tepals about 2.5-4 mm long, hairy. Tepals appear in one whorl at anthesis, although in two whorls in bud, 7 or 8 smaller ones alternating with 7 or 8 slightly larger ones. Stamens > 20 usually in fascicles of three (sometimes four), opposite larger tepals and alternating with disk glands. Each stamen up to 3 mm long, anthers very small, pollen yellow. Ovary half-inferior, densely hairy on the inner surface, the hairs being quite long and almost filling the ovary cavity. Style branched 5(6).

Fruit

Fruits a capsule, 2-8 valved, c. 3 mm long. Tepals persistent in fruit and resembling the skirt of a shuttlecock.

Seedlings

Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CEQ from Mt Elliot, near Townsville, southwards to south eastern Queensland. Grows in dry rainforest and thickets. Altitudinal range from near 50 m to 500 m.

Natural History & Notes

This profile information and associated coding has been adapted from Cooper & Cooper (2004), Harden et al. (2014) and Jessup (1982).

RFK Code

3616



Herbarium sheet. CC-BY: ATH.



Flower. CC-BY: ATH.

Copyright © CSIRO 2020, all rights reserved.



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest>