

Lithomyrtus obtusa (Endl.) N.Snow & Guymer

Family:
Myrtaceae

Snow, N. & Guymer, G.P. (1999) *Austrobaileya* 5(2): 194.

Common name:
Beach Myrtella

Stem

Usually flowers and fruits as a shrub about 1-2 m tall.

Leaves

Leaf blades about 15-45 x 6-15 mm, margins recurved. Terminal buds, young leafy twigs and underside of leaves clothed in tortuous white or light brown hairs. Oil dots difficult to distinguish even with a lens but usually visible from the upper surface.

Flowers

Calyx tube (hypanthium) clothed in silver hairs, calyx lobes reflexed, with the tips almost touching the hypanthium at anthesis. Petals about 7-8 mm long.

Fruit

Fruits about 9-10 mm long. Calyx lobes about 3 mm long, reflexed, persistent at the apex of the fruit. Cotyledons rolled, much wider than the radicle. Seeds arranged one above the other in the fruit.

Seedlings

Cotyledons linear, about 20-22 x 2 mm, slightly hairy on the upper surface. First pair of leaves linear, opposite. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade linear, apex acute, base attenuate, margin recurved. Leaf blade underside clothed in matted white gossamer-like hairs. Petiole very short. Stem and terminal bud clothed in white or pale coloured hairs. Seed germination time 25 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as south-eastern Queensland. Altitudinal range in northern Australia from near sea level to about 100 m. Usually grows on sand dunes close to the sea and the vegetation can be open forest, vine thickets, low closed forest or monsoon forest. Also occurs in New Guinea.

Natural History & Notes

A beautiful small shrub well worthy of cultivation. Does best in well drained coastal soils and healthy plants cover themselves in pink to purple flowers.

Synonyms

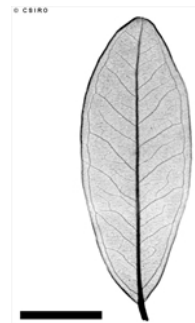
Myrtella obtusa (Endl.) A.J.Scott, *Kew Bulletin* 33: 300(1978). **Fenzlia obtusa Endl.**, *Ataka Bot.* 19: t.17(1834), Type: Queensland, Between Curtis & Facing Islands, F.L.Bauer s.n.; holo: W; iso: K.

RFK Code

3396



Habit, leaves and flowers. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

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