

Litsea macrophylla Blume

Family:
Lauraceae

Blume, C.L. (1826) *Bijdragen tot de Flora van Nederlandsch Indie* : 567. Type: *Crescit in montosis insulae Niasae*, Karubasse

Stem

Fine yellowish flecks or stripes generally visible in the outer blaze.

Leaves

Twigs +/- terete or slightly fluted, clothed in tortuous, brown or pale brown, erect hairs when young but eventually becoming glabrous. Leaf blades about 25-40 x 11-17 cm, usually slightly glaucous (quite glaucous on small trees), clothed in short, straight and tortuous, white and pale brown, erect hairs which persist even on mature leaves. Midrib flush with the upper surface. Petioles flat or channelled on the upper surface. Oil dots visible with a lens.

Flowers

Flowers arranged in umbels of about 6 flowers which are enclosed in hairy bracts until anthesis. Tepals six. Male flowers: Tepals about 2.4-2.5 mm long. Stamens about 15, filaments pubescent with conspicuous attached glands. Female flowers: Tepals about 1.8-2.2 mm long. Staminodes about 2-4 with attached glands usually present opposite each tepal.

Fruit

Fruits ellipsoid, about 13-14 x 10-11.5 mm. Receptacle about 7-10.5 x 9-11 mm. Seed about 9.5-10 x 7.5-8 mm. Cotyledons cream.

Seedlings

First pair of leaves ovate, about 33-43 x 16-27 mm, usually glaucous on the underside. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves elliptic to obovate, apex acute, base obtuse, upper surface with a few hairs along the midrib and lateral veins, underside usually glaucous; oil dots small, sparse, most numerous about the leaf margin and along the midrib and lateral veins. Seed germination time 35 to 65 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP. Altitudinal range from sea level to 100 m. Grows in rain forest and monsoon forest. Also occurs in New Guinea.

Natural History & Notes

This species probably grows large enough to produce millable logs but, as it grows in sparsely populated areas with limited resident sawmilling expertise, it is doubtful if it has ever been utilized. Wood specific gravity 0.50. Hyland (1989).

Synonyms

Litsea calophyllantha K.Schum. in K.Schum. & Lauterb., *Fl. Deutsch. Sudsee* : 331(1901), Type: New Guinea, Finschhafen, Lauterbach 1386; holotype: WRS.L.

RFK Code

832



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, hypogeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

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