

Lophostemon suaveolens (Sol. ex Gaertn.) Peter G. Wilson & J.T. Waterh.

Family:
Myrtaceae

Wilson, Peter G. & Waterhouse, J.T. (1982) *Australian Journal of Botany* 30: 425.

Common name:

Swamp Mahogany; Apple; Mahogany, Swamp; Swamp Box; Swamp Turpentine; Mahogany, Paperbark; Box, Swamp; Paperbark Mahogany

Stem

Dead bark often soft and somewhat compressible.

Leaves

Oil dots visible with a lens if not visible to the naked eye. Leaf blades about 5.5-14 x 2.5-4 cm. Young shoots and younger leaf bearing twigs clothed in white, erect hairs. Young leaves, when crushed, emit an odour like that of geraniums (*Pelargonium* spp.). Old leaves turn orange-red prior to falling.

Flowers

Calyx lobes obtuse, persistent. Staminal fascicles up to 3-5 mm long, opposite the petals. Usually 30-50 stamens per fascicle.

Fruit

Fruit about 6-8 mm diam., included in the calyx tube (hypanthium). Seeds linear, about 1.5-2 mm long.

Seedlings

Cotyledons elliptic to ovate, about 2-4 mm long. A few very small oil dots may sometimes be seen with a lens. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade elliptic, apex acute, upper surface glabrous or with a few hairs near the base on the midrib; oil dots very small, visible only with a lens; petiole, terminal bud and stem clothed in long white or pale hairs. Seed germination time 8 to 21 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as north-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range from sea level to 900 m. Grows in swampy open forest but also found on the margin of rain forest and gallery forest. Also occurs in New Guinea.

Natural History & Notes

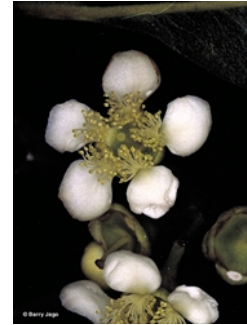
Formerly used as wharf piles particularly with the bark still attached. Swain (1928).

Synonyms

***Tristania suaveolens* (Solander ex Gaertn.) Sm.**, *Rees' Cyclopaedia* 36 : no. 2(1817). ***Tristania suaveolens* var. *glabrescens* F.M. Bailey**, *A Synopsis of the Queensland Flora* : 182(1883), Type: (C. Ext.). ***Melaleuca suaveolens* Soland. ex Gaertn.**, *de Fruct. et Sem.* 1: 73(1788), Type: Ex hortario Banksiano.

RFK Code

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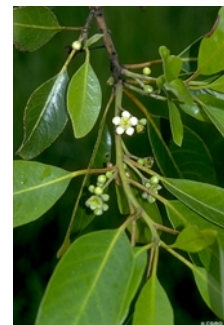
Flowers. © Barry Jago



Flowers. CC-BY R.L. Jago



Flowers. CC-BY R.L. Jago



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

