Myrsine achradifolia F.Muell.

**Family:** Primulaceae


**Common name:** Muttonwood; Rapanea

**Stem**
Oak grain in the wood and a corresponding dark pattern in the blaze.

**Leaves**
Brown or reddish oil dots visible with a lens. Leaf blades elliptical to oblanceolate to obovate, about 8-22 x 3-9 cm. Midrib depressed on the upper surface. Lateral veins 18-24 on each side of the midrib. Petioles usually more than 10 mm long (10-32mm), often purplish and producing a small quantity of purple exudate when broken.

**Flowers**
Inflorescence much shorter than the leaves, only about as long as the petioles. Pedicels short, about 3-8 mm long. Corolla tube about 1-3 mm long, corolla lobes about 2 mm long, papillose on the outer surface. Ovary about 1.5-2 x 2 mm, stigma short and capitate, papillose, obscurely lobed. Ovules 3-4.

**Fruit**
Inflorescence much shorter than the leaves, barely exceeding the petioles, pedicels about 4-8 mm long. Calyx lobes persistent at the base of the fruit. Fruits globular or ellipsoid, about 5-9 x 5-9 mm.

**Seedlings**
Cotyledons ovate, about 8-10 mm long. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade +/- elliptic, apex acute, base cuneate, marginal teeth obscure, glabrous, oil dots (or glands) dark or reddish. Seed germination time 236 to 408 days.

**Distribution and Ecology**
Endemic to NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level-1300 m. Grows in well developed upland and mountain rain forest.

**Natural History & Notes**
A desirable tree with large, hairy, lobed leaves deserving of wider use. Flowers are in large conspicuous panicles and contrast with the foliage.

**Synonyms**
Rapanea achradifolia (F.Muell.) Mez, *Das Pflanzenreich Heft 9*: 354(1902).

**RFK Code**
208