Niemeyera prunifera (F.Muell.) F.Muell.

**Family:**
Sapotaceae


**Common name:**
Brown Pearwood; Boxwood, Plum; Rusty Plum; Milky Plum; Plum, Milky; Plum Boxwood; Plum, Rusty; Silky Hornbeam

**Stem**
Bark exudate slow and meagre, mainly from the inner blaze.

**Leaves**
Petioles and twigs produce a milky exudate. Young shoots and younger leaf bearing twigs densely clothed in felty, brown hairs. Leaf blades about 5.5-18 x 2-5 cm. Midrib and sometimes the main lateral veins raised on the upper surface of the leaf blade.

**Flowers**
Flowers about 4 mm diam., in dense axillary fascicles. Outer surface of the calyx clothed in dense brown hairs. Ovary densely clothed in pale coloured hairs.

**Fruit**
Fruits about 24-30 mm diam. Testa thin and fragile. Hilum ovate about 16-18 x 11-13 mm.

**Seedlings**
A few very densely hairy cataphylls produced before the first true leaves. First pair of true leaves elliptic to obovate. Young leaves clothed in dense, rust coloured hairs. Only a few hairs remaining on the upper surface of older leaves. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade obovate, apex acuminate, base attenuate, upper surface hairy along the midrib at least; lateral veins about 12-16 each side of the midrib; petiole, stem and terminal bud densely clothed in reddish brown hairs. Seed germination time 75 to 107 days.

**Distribution and Ecology**
Occurs in NEQ, CEQ and southwards nearly to Bundaberg. Altitudinal range from sea level to 1600 m. Grows as an understorey tree in well developed rain forest on a variety of sites.

**Natural History & Notes**
Fallen fruit eaten by Cassowaries and Musky Rat-kangaroos. Cooper & Cooper (1994).
Sometimes grows large enough to produce millable logs. Produces a useful general purpose timber. Wood specific gravity 0.77. Cause et al. (1989).

**Synonyms**

**RFK Code**
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