

Normanbya normanbyi (W.Hill) L.H.Bailey

Family:

Areaceae

Bailey, L.H. (100) *Gentes Herbarum* 2: 188.

Common name:

Black Palm

Stem

Single stemmed palm up to 30 m tall. The trunk is smooth, slender, and closely ringed, and becomes almost black with age.

Leaves

Leaves 2.5 m long, arching; 75-95 pinnae each side of rachis; leafsheath to 120 cm long, light green with white to green tomentum; petiole to 30 cm, densely scaly. Pinnae to 45 cm long, divided longitudinally to the base into 7-11 segments.

Flowers

Inflorescence within the leaves; to 90 cm long. Flowers sessile, in groups of three consisting of one male and two female. Male flowers with dark green sepals, yellowish-green to cream petals; 24-40 stamens. Female flowers with mid-green sepals, light green petals; 3 stigmas are strongly recurved.

Fruit

Fruit are 35-50 mm long x 25-39 mm wide, ovoid, with a c. 5 mm beak at the apex. Pink to red-brown at maturity. Seed 35 mm long x 25 mm wide, endosperm deeply ruminant, seed coat orange-red.

Seedlings

Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology

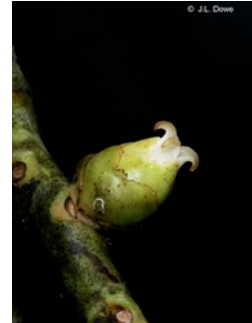
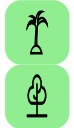
Endemic to Australia, occurs in NEQ from south of Cooktown in the north to near Mossman in the south. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 700 m. Grows in rainforest and vine forest.

Synonyms

Ptychosperma normanbyi (W.Hill) F.Muell., *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 11(93): 56(1881). ***Saguaster normanbyi*** (W.Hill) Kuntze, *Revisio Generum Plantarum* 2: 735(1891). ***Drymophloeus normanbyi*** (W.Hill) F.M.Bailey, *The Queensland Flora* 5: 1678(1902). ***Areca normanbyi*** (W.Hill) F.Muell., *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 8(65): 235(1874). ***Cocos normanbyi*** W.Hill, *Report on the Brisbane Botanic Garden* : 6(1874), Type: In rich alluvial soil on the banks of the Daintree River.

RFK Code

7017



Female flower [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



Male flower [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



Mature fruit [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



Section through seed. © CSIRO



Fruit, whole and in longitudinal section, on blue-grey coloured under surface of pinnae [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



Inflorescences [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



In lowland rainforest [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



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