

Parsonsia lanceolata R.Br.

Family:

Apocynaceae

Brown, R. (1810) *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae* : 466. Type: Queensland, July - October 1802, R. Brown; holo: BM, Fide Williams (1996).

Common name:

Rough Silkpod; Silkpod, Rough

Stem

A slender vine not exceeding a stem diameter of 2 cm.

Leaves

Subulate glands less than 0.5 mm long visible on the twigs between the points of attachment of the petiole bases. Twigs and petioles produce a small amount of clear or pale brown or honey-coloured exudate. Leaf blades about 4-6 x 1.5-3 cm, much paler on the underside, petioles about 0.5-0.8 cm long. Lateral veins forming loops inside the blade margin. Hairs present on both the upper and lower leaf blade surfaces but small, pale and difficult to discern without the use of a lens.

Flowers

Inflorescence compact, containing 10-50 flowers. Pedicels about 1-4 mm long. Calyx lobes narrowly lanceolate, about 1.5-2.5 mm long. Corolla tube about 1-1.5 mm long, lobes erect, ovate-lanceolate, about 3-4 mm long. Anthers fused together to form a cone about 2.5-3 mm long surrounding the stigma, each anther sac ending in a long tail at the base. Pollen produced only in the upper half of each anther. Staminal filaments free from one another at the base but fused further up and then free from one another before joining with each anther.

Fruit

Fruits about 7-12 x 0.6-0.7 cm, surface clothed in short hairs. Seeds numerous, each about 8-10 mm long. Plumes white, about 18-30 mm long. Embryo about 5 mm long. Cotyledons about 3.5 mm long, radicle about 1.5 mm long.

Seedlings

Cotyledons elliptic to almost lanceolate, about 10-13.5 x 3-5 mm, midrib but no other veins visible. First leaves lanceolate, apex acute with an elongated apiculate tip, base obtuse. Midrib slightly depressed or flush with the upper surface. Leaf blades almost glabrous except for small sparsely scattered hairs along the midrib on both the upper and lower surfaces. Petioles +/- parallel to the stem and the leaf blades held at right angles to the petioles. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade lanceolate, apex acute to acuminate, base obtuse. Lateral veins about 5-7 on each side of the midrib. Stipule-like glands, about 0.3 mm long, present on the stems between petiole bases and the stem. Seed germination time 21 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as southern New South Wales. Altitudinal range in NEQ from 350-900 m. In NEQ confined to monsoon forest or vine thickets.

Natural History & Notes

Food plant for the larval stages of the Common Crow Butterfly. Sankowsky & Neilsen (2000).

Synonyms

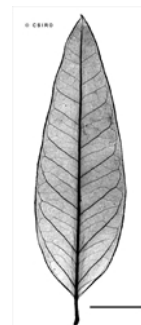
***Echites lanceolata* (R.Br.) Spreng.**, *Systema Vegetabilium* 1 : 634(1824). ***Parsonsia paddisonii* R.T.Baker**, *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 24(1): 385(1900), Type: New Angledool, N.S.W. (A. Paddison). Holo: NSW; iso: BRI. ***Parsonsia lanceolata* var. *mollis* (R.Br.) Maiden & Betche**, *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 29: 747(1905).

***Parsonsia lanceolata* var. *angustifolia* Domin**, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 1083(1928), Type: Queensland: Mt. Remarkable bei Pentland (Domin III. 1910.) (Holo: PR?). ***Parsonsia glaucescens* F.Muell.**, *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 6: 126(1868), Type: In virgultis a fluvio Darlingii et a Nova Anglia usque ad Rockingham Bay. (Rockhampton, A. Thozet; syn: MEL.). ***Parsonsia mollis* R.Br.**, *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae* : 466(1810), Type: Northern Australia, July - Oct, 1802, R. Brown; holo: BM. ***Echites mollis* (R.Br.) Spreng.**, *Systema Vegetabilium* 1 : 634(1824).

RFK Code



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

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