

## *Phaleria clerodendron* (F.Muell.) Benth.

### Family:

Thymelaeaceae

Bentham, G. (1873) *Flora Australiensis* 6: 38.

### Common name:

Scented Phaleria; Apple, Rosy; Scented Daphne; Rosy Apple

### Stem

Usually grows into a small or medium-sized tree but occasionally flowers and fruits as a shrub. Bark extremely strong and fibrous when stripped.

### Leaves

Twig bark strong and fibrous, emitting an unpleasant odour when stripped. Leaf blades about 9.5-19 x 3-7.2 cm.

### Flowers

Flowers pleasantly perfumed. Perianth petaloid. Perianth tube (hypanthium) much longer than the lobes, tube about 25 mm long, lobes about 4-5 mm long. Stamens eight in two whorls of four, one above the other on the perianth tube (hypanthium), the upper whorl opposite the lobes. Stigma capitate, thicker than the style.

### Fruit

Fruits globular or depressed globular, sometimes laterally compressed, about 25-35 x 35-50 mm. Endocarp somewhat fibrous. Seeds variable up to about 20 x 17 mm. Fruit borne on the trunk and larger branches.

### Seedlings

A pair of cataphylls each about 8-14 x 1 mm, are produced before the first true leaves. First pair of true leaves lanceolate or ovate, about 5-6.5 x 1.5-2 cm, glabrous. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves narrowly ovate, apex acuminate, base cuneate, seedling completely glabrous. Cataphylls sometimes occur among true leaves. Seed germination time 22 to 43 days.

### Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 900 m. Grows in well developed lowland and upland rain forest.

### Natural History & Notes

Fruit eaten by Cassowaries. Cooper & Cooper (1994).

A shrub or small tree that deserves to be more commonly cultivated. Beautifully perfumed white flowers are produced on the stem and branches and are followed by large red fruits.

### Synonyms

*Drymyspermum clerodendron* F.Muell., *Fragmenta* 7: 1(1869), Type: Rockingham Bay, Qld, J. Dallachy s.n.

### RFK Code

340



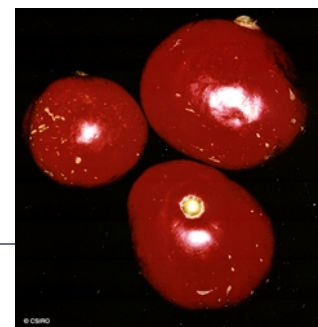
Flower. © Barry Jago



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Fruit, side views and cross section. © W. T. Cooper



Fruit. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon and 1st leaf stage,  
hypogeal germination. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, hypogeal  
germination. © CSIRO

