Polyscias murrayi (F.Muell.) Harms

**Family:**
Araliaceae


**Common name:**
Umbrella Tree; Celerywood; Chinky Pine; Murray’s Basswood; Pencil Cedar; Pine, Chinky; Cedar, Pencil; White Basswood; Pencil Wood

**Stem**
Small trees produce compound leaves but no branches, i.e. compound leaves attached to the stem. Cream or brown fibrous stripes in the blaze.

**Leaves**
Compound leaves with a large number (up to 30 or more) of leaflets. Stipule-like growths produced on the upper surface of the compound leaf rhachis where the leaflets are attached. Leaflet blades about 5-16 x 2-4.5 cm.

**Flowers**
Flowers in umbels which are arranged in racemes or panicles. Calyx lobes small. Petals about 2 mm long. Style arms free and divergent following anthesis.

**Fruit**
Fruits depressed globular in outline, but conspicuously laterally compressed, about 4-4.5 x 6 x 4 mm, longitudinally ribbed or grooved. Style arms divergent, persisting at the apex of the mature fruit. Embryo very small.

**Seedlings**
Cotyledons ovate or elliptic, about 5-8 mm long. First pair of leaves simple. At the tenth leaf stage: leaflet blades ovate or linear-ovate, slightly unequal-sided at the base, serrate, glabrous, teeth small; small glands or hairs occur on the rhachis of the compound leaf at the junctions of the leaflet stalks; petioles, stem and terminal bud glabrous. Seed germination time 70 to 152 days.

**Distribution and Ecology**
Endemic to Australia, widespread in NEQ, CEQ and southwards to Victoria. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1100 m. Usually grows in well developed rain forest. A characteristic tree of disturbed forest particularly along snig tracks and road edges.

**Natural History & Notes**
A characteristic species along recently constructed roads in rainforest. This species thrives on disturbances.

Fruit eaten by several species of birds. Leaves eaten by Herbert River Ringtail Possums. Cooper & Cooper (1994).

**Synonyms**

**RFK Code**
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