

Polyscias murrayi (F.Muell.) Harms

Family:

Araliaceae

Harms, H.A.T. in Engler, H.G.A. & Prantl, K.A.E. (1894) *Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien* 3(8) : 45.

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 rachis 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 rachis 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

Tieghemopanax murrayi (F.Muell.) R.Vig., *Bulletin de la Societe Botanique de France* 52 : 310(1905). **Panax murrayi** F.Muell., *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 2: 106(1861), Type: In vallibus montium silvaticorum sinum Twofold Bay versus.

RFK Code

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Inflorescence and flowers. © CSIRO



Fruit and side view. © W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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