

## *Prumnopitys ladei* (F.M.Bailey) de Laub.

### Family:

Podocarpaceae

Laubenfels, D.J. de (1978) *Blumea* 24: 190.

### Common name:

Mount Spurgeon Black Kauri Pine; Pine, Mt Spurgeon; Mt Spurgeon Pine; Brown Pine; Mount Spurgeon Kauri Pine; Pine, Brown; Pine, Mount Spurgeon Black Kauri

### Stem

Blaze odour pine-like (*Pinus* spp.). Exudate almost clear, slow, meagre and inconspicuous. Bark, particularly on the upper stem of large trees, shed in large flakes.

### Leaves

Leaf blades rather small, less than 2.5 cm long and about 0.2-0.3 cm wide, usually alternate and not spirally arranged on the twigs. Petioles very short or absent. A small ridge running down the twig from the base of each petiole.

### Flowers

Male cones about 7-20 x 2-2.5 mm, peduncle short or nil.

### Fruit

Receptacle small and inconspicuous. Fruits globular or ellipsoid, about 25-30 x 20-25 mm. Seed about 18-20 x 12-15 mm. Endocarp thick, about 2-6 mm and hard. Embryo quite small.

### Seedlings

Cotyledons two, linear, about 25-30 x 1-2 mm long. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade oblong, about 8-10 x 2 mm, sessile, apex apiculate, base cuneate, no lateral veins present. Seedling glabrous. Seedling usually branched at the first pair of leaves. Seed germination time 279 to 610 days.

### Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to NEQ, restricted to the Mt Spurgeon-Mt Lewis area. Altitudinal range from 900-1300 m. Grows in well developed mountain rain forest on soils derived from granite.

### Natural History & Notes

Seeds eaten by native rats. Cooper & Cooper (1994).

Because of its small leaves, tolerance of low light and slow growth, this species makes an excellent indoor plant and deserves greater recognition.

When cultivated in a garden situation this species exhibits a very symmetrical form with branches down to ground level.

A rare species but produces a useful general purpose timber. Wood specific gravity 0.70. Cause et al. (1989).

### Synonyms

***Stachycarpus ladei* (Bailey) Gaussen**, *Travaux du Laboratoire Forestier de Toulouse Tome 2, sect. 1, 1(2) (fasc. 13) : 102*(1974). ***Podocarpus ladei* F.M.Bailey**, *Queensland Agricultural Journal* 15(8): 899(1905), Type: Mount Spurgeon, Mitchell River, Port Douglas, F.W.H. Lade. Leaf specimens, December, 1902; immature fruiting specimens, May, 1905.

### RFK Code

336



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



Fruit, side views, transverse section and seed. © W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon and 10th leaf stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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