

# *Prunus brachystachya* Kalkman

## Family:

Rosaceae

Kalkman, C. (1965) *Blumea* 13: 63. Type: Henty NGF 10526, Papua New Guinea.

## Common name:

Claudie Almond

## Stem

Seldom exceeding 30 cm dbh. Blaze odour resembling that of almonds (*Prunus dulcis*).

## Leaves

Leaf blades about 10-14 x 4.5-6 cm, petioles about 0.5-1 cm long. Two flat glands usually visible on the underside of the leaf blade one on either side of the midrib close to the base. Lateral veins forming inconspicuous loops inside the blade margin and midrib depressed on the upper surface. Stipules strap-shaped, about 7-8 mm long.

## Flowers

Racemes about 1.5-6.5 cm long, pedicels about 1-7 mm long. Hypanthium about 2-4 mm long, pubescent outside. Perianth segments about 6-13, stamens about 15-50. Ovary usually glabrous. Style up to about 7 mm long.

## Fruit

Fruits globular to transversely ellipsoid, distinctly bilobed with a vein pattern on the surface, about 6-25 x 8-17 mm. Testa glabrous.

## Seedlings

First pair of leaves with narrowly triangular stipules. Subsequent leaves with obovate stipules. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade ovate to elliptic, apex acuminate, base obtuse or cuneate, upper surface glabrous, midrib depressed on the upper surface; petiole with a few scattered hairs; stipules linear-triangular or falcate, hairy, about 10 x 2 mm, margins toothed. Seed germination time 32 to 59 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 450 m. Grows in well developed rain forest on a variety of sites. Also occurs in Malesia.

## Natural History & Notes

This species should be treated with caution as it is frequently recorded as having an almond odour (HCN) in various parts. The fruits should not be eaten.

## Synonyms

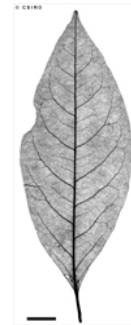
***Prunus grisea* (C.Mueller) Kalkman var. *grisea***, *Blumea* 13: 58(1965). ***Pygeum griseum***

**C.Mueller**, *Walpers, Ann.* 4: 642(1857), Type: Kuhl & van Hasselt s. n. L sheet 908.197 - 535,

Java.

## RFK Code

661



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, hypogeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

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