

Psychotria dallachiana Benth.

Family:
Rubiaceae

Bentham, G. (1867) *Flora Australiensis* 3: 427. Type: Queensland. Rockingham Bay, Dallachy.

Stem

Can grow into a small tree but usually flowers and fruits as a shrub 2-3 m tall.

Leaves

Stipules +/- glabrous, about 1-1.5 mm long, encircling the twigs. Leaf blades about 5-13 x 1.5-5 cm. Lateral veins difficult to see on either the upper or lower surfaces of the leaf blades but forming loops inside the blade margin. Petiole channelled on the upper surface.

Flowers

Calyx glabrous, cup-shaped, calyx tube (hypanthium) about 1 mm long, calyx lobes about 0.2-0.3 mm long. Corolla tube about 1-2 mm long, corolla lobes about 1-2 mm long. Throat of the corolla tube clothed in straight, white, multicellular or moniliform hairs. Anthers purplish, about 1 mm long. Pollen white. Style inserted in a bilobed disk at the apex of the ovary. Stigma hairy, 2-lobed.

Fruit

Fruit cream, +/- globular, about 8-13 mm diam. with a tonsure-like scar at the apex. 'Seeds' (endocarps) smooth, not longitudinally ribbed. Testa intruding into the endosperm.

Seedlings

Cotyledons ovate, about 10-19 x 9-7 mm, stipulate, base cordate or truncate, petioles short. First pair of leaves opposite and stipulate. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade narrowly lanceolate, glabrous, lateral veins forming loops inside the blade margin. Stipules glabrous, about 3.5-7 mm long, encircling the twigs, apex bilobed. Seed germination time 27 to 143 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Queensland, occurs in CYP and NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1200 m. Grows as an understory plant in a variety of rain forest types, often found associated with Kauri Pine (*Agathis robusta*).

Synonyms

Uragoga dallachiana (Benth.) Kuntze, *Revisio Generum Plantarum* 2: 960 (1891).

RFK Code

3176



Flower. CC-BY J.L. Dowe



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO





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