

## *Rhodamnia spongiosa* (F.M.Bailey) Domin

Family:  
**Myrtaceae**

Domin, K. (1928) *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 1030.

Common name:  
Northern Malletwood; Rhodamnia

### Stem

Living bark layer very thin.

### Leaves

Leaf blades about 5.5-12 x 2.5-4.5 cm. Midrib and 2 main lateral veins depressed on the upper surface at least towards the base. Bark on the older twigs pale, spongy and somewhat papery, resembling that of *Melaleuca* spp. Petiole grooved on the upper surface. Terminal buds and young shoots clothed in pale brown, prostrate hairs.

### Flowers

Inflorescence usually on the twigs below or back from the leaves, shorter than the leaves. Calyx lobes about 2 mm long, pubescent on the outer and inner surfaces. Petals +/- obovate, about 7-8 mm long, pubescent on the outer surface, but glabrous on the inner surface.

### Fruit

Inflorescence usually produced on the twigs below or back from the leaves, shorter than the leaves. Calyx lobes persistent at the apex. Fruits depressed globular, about 10 x 12-13 mm, surface clothed in white hairs. Seeds variable in shape, about 3-3.5 x 2-2.5 mm. Cotyledons small, just visible with a lens and narrower than the radicle.

### Seedlings

Cotyledons ovate, about 5-7 mm long, apex acute or apiculate, base obtuse. Oil dots small, just visible with a lens. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade elliptic, apex acuminate, base cuneate or attenuate, upper surface with a few scattered hairs along midrib and main lateral veins, underside with short, almost matted, pale hairs; oil dots very small, numerous, visible with a lens; leaf blade strongly 3-veined; petiole, stem and terminal bud clothed in pale hairs. Petiole shallowly grooved on the upper surface. Seed germination time 8 to 58 days.

### Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards in southern central Queensland. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1150 m. Grows as an understory tree in well developed rain forest on a variety of sites but more frequently encountered in drier rain forest often associated with Kauri Pine (*Agathis robusta*). Also occurs in New Guinea.

### Synonyms

***Rhodamnia trinervia* var. *spongiosa* F.M.Bailey**, *Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock. Botany Bulletin* 7: 62(1893), Type: Tringilburra Creek, Bellenden-Ker Expedition. Barron River, E. Cowley.

### RFK Code

126



Flowers. CC-BY J.L. Dowe



Cauliflorous fruit. © B. Gray



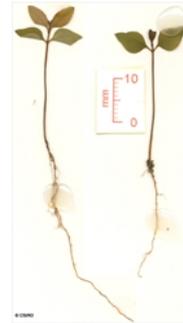
Fruit, three views and cross section. © W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO

