

# *Rhus taitensis* Guill.

## Family:

Anacardiaceae

Guillemin, J.B.A. (1837) *Annales des Sciences Naturelles ser. 2, 7*: 361. Type: Tahiti, Bertero et Moerenhout.

## Common name:

Sumac

## Stem

Exudate emerging from layers in the blaze. Lenticels often large and conspicuous, more than 1 cm diameter.

## Leaves

Leaflet blades about 4-15 x 1.5-5 cm. Leaflets and twigs produce a milky exudate. Pulvinus usually apparent on the terminal leaflet.

## Flowers

Inflorescence quite large and complex. Calyx lobes broadly ovate, about 0.8-1 mm long. Petals narrowly ovate, elliptic or obovate, glabrous outside, pilose inside for the lower half, about 2-2.5 mm long. Disk 10-lobed. Stamens inserted outside the disk, filaments about 1-1.2 mm long, anthers about 0.8-1 mm long.

## Fruit

Fruits produced in great abundance. Fruits +/- ovoid, but laterally compressed, about 6-8 x 4-8 mm. Seeds enclosed in a hard endocarp. Seeds flattened, about 2-3 mm diam. Cotyledons 3-veined.

## Seedlings

Seed germination time 13 to 102 days. Cotyledons ovate, about 7-9 mm long, apex and base obtuse. First pair of leaves trifoliolate, the middle leaflet lobed. At the tenth leaf stage: leaflets ovate, unequal-sided, margin smooth or toothed with 1 or 2 teeth, terminal leaflet toothed or lobed; upper surface of leaf blade with hairs along the midrib, lower surface shortly hairy; petiole and rhachis of compound leaf hairy. Exudate clear.

## Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NT, CYP, NEQ and CEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 600 m. Grows in lowland rain forest. Also occurs in Malesia and Tahiti. Recorded as an introduced species by Jessup (1985) but some early collections indicate that it may have been in Australia before European settlement.

## Natural History & Notes

There are no reported cases of allergic reactions to this species but in view of the bad reputation of the genus, the species should probably be treated with caution.

## Synonyms

**Duckera taitensis (Guillemin) F.Barkley**, *Lilloa* 23: 253(1950). **Rhus simarubaefolia var. taitensis (Guillemin) Engl.**, *Monographie Phanerogramie* 4: 451(1883). **Rhus panaciformis F.Muell.**, *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 7: 22(1869), Type: Inter Rockinghams Bay et Valley of Lagoons. J. Dallachy. holo: MEL. **Rhus retusa Engl.**, *Monographiae Phanerogamarum* 4: 450(1883), Type: Java (Zoll. Pl. jav., n. 3463 in herb. var.); Celebes, in peninsula borealis Monado (Teysm. in herb. Bogor., herb. Lugd. bat. atque herb. Monac.). **Rhus rufa Teijsm. & Binn.**, *Natuurkundig Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsch Indi* 27: 52(1864), Type: Monado; nom. incol. Kajoe-Kambing.

## RFK Code

268



Flower. © Barry Jago



Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



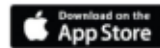
Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest>