

# *Ristantia waterhousei* Peter G. Wilson & B. Hyland

Family:  
**Myrtaceae**

Wilson, Peter G. & Hyland, B.P.M. (1988), New taxa of rainforest Myrtaceae from northern Queensland. *Telopea* 2(2): 268-270  
Fig. 5D, E, G, H. . Type: "QUEENSLAND: Mount Dryander, 20°15'S, 148°32'E, Wilson & Puttock  
UNSW 13291, 12.4.1982 (NSW). ISOTYPES: QRS, UNSW."

## Stem

Tree to over 20 m tall. Bark brownish, the surface tessellated with thin flakes.

## Leaves

Leaves simple and alternate. New growth red. Petiole to 1.3 cm long. Leaf blade elliptic, rarely obovate, about (4-) 5-12 (-16) cm long, (1.8-) 3-5 (-5.8) cm wide, base cuneate to attenuate, margin often with a few teeth, apex obtuse to acute or acuminate. Lateral veins curved throughout their length but not forming distinct loops. Oil dots visible to the naked eye or with a hand lens.

## Flowers

Inflorescence paniculate, axillary, up to 4 cm long; flowers bisexual or very rarely male. Hypanthium cup shaped, glabrous on outer surface, with long hairs more or less appressed or flattened against inner surface below stamens. Sepal lobes 4 or 5, semicircular, 1-2 mm long, 1.5-4 mm broad. Petal 4 or 5, orbicular, 2.5-3 mm long, white, with short hairs flattened against inner and outer surface. Stamens about 80-100, in 2-3 series, the inner series in bundles opposite petals; filaments 1-3.5 mm long, anthers to 0.5 mm long. Staminodes or sterile anthers few, sterile anthers pale orange and larger than fertile ones to 1 mm long. Stamens free to base, if connate only at base where fused to hypanthium in bundles. Ovary reported as half-inferior in literature but observed as ± superior in dissected flowers, glabrous or with short tortuous hairs. Style 5 mm long.

## Fruit

Fruits a brown globose capsule, 1-1.5 cm diam, rugose. Hypanthium persistent in fruit and appearing flat with a deflexed margin forming an inverted rim around base of fruit. Valves opening deeply to fruiting hypanthium. Seeds often 3, up to 6 per fruit, ovoid, about 9 mm long, testa pale brown. Embryo with coiled or straight cotyledons, radicle straight.

## Seedlings

No features available.

## Distribution and Ecology

Restricted endemic in CEQ recorded only from Mt Dryander. Altitudinal range from foothills to the summit of Mt Dryander 0-800 m. Grows as a dominant tree on the sheltered southern side of the mountain.

## Natural History & Notes

This species differs to *Ristantia gouldii* by the more numerous stamens, and a broader fruiting hypanthium, *R. gouldii* has a smaller invaginated or sunken hypanthium which appears more like a narrow sunken disc at the base of the capsule. *Ristantia pachypserma* differs from both the above species in having hard, thick, furrowed bark, stamens fused together in more distinct groups and a flat or broadly obconical (inverted cone) fruiting hypanthium.

## Synonyms

*Ristantia* sp. 'Mt Dryander' (V.K.Moriarty 1901)

## RFK Code

1209



Flowers and leaves [not vouchered]. CC-BY: A. Ford



Flowers and leaves [not vouchered]. CC-BY: A. Ford



Leaf and fruit [not vouchered].  
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Herbarium sheet: flowers. CC-BY:  
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