Syzygium australe (H.L.Wendl. ex Link) B.Hyland

Family: Myrtaceae


Common name:
Creek Lillipilli; Satinash, Creek; Woolgoolga; Scrub Cherry; Creek Lily Pilly; Creek Cherry; Brush Cherry; Creek Satinash; Cherry, Brush; Cherry, Creek; Cherry, Scrub; Watergum

Stem
Usually a small and poorly formed tree.

Leaves
Leaf blades rather small, about 3.3-9.5 x 1.2-3.2 cm. Oil dots visible with a lens if not visible to the naked eye. Oil dots rather sparsely scattered. Leafy twigs generally 4-angled or shortly 4-winged, pairs of wings running down from each petiole but amalgamating and forming a pocket or hump above the next lower pair of leaves.

Flowers
Inflorescence frequently about 3-7 flowered, bracts deciduous, absent at anthesis. Calyx tube (hypanthium) + pedicel about 3-10 mm long, calyx tube (hypanthium) about 2-6.5 mm diam., calyx lobes slightly dimorphic, concave, +/- triangular but rounded at the apex, larger lobes about 2.5-4 mm long. Petals orbicular, sometimes shortly clawed, about 3.5-5 mm diam., oil dots visible, not conspicuous, about 50-100 per petal. Outer staminal filaments about 5-15 mm long, anthers about 0.6-0.6 x 0.3-0.6 mm, gland comparatively large, terminal, near the back of the anther. Ovules about 10-30 per locule, placentas central, ovules radiating, ascending. Style about 7-24 mm long, approximating or exceeding the stamens.

Fruit
Fruits globular, oval or ellipsoid, excavated at the apex, attaining about 14-23 x 8-17 mm, calyx lobes persistent, fleshy, inflexed, about 3-4 mm long. Seed solitary, occasionally two, attaining about 7-12 x 6-10 mm, testa +/- free from the crisp pericarp and free from the smooth surface of the uniformly textured cotyledons. Radicle lateral, cotyledonal stipules present.

Seedlings
Cataphylls about 2-4 pairs. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade obovate, apex acute or rounded, base attenuate, glabrous; oil dots small, very sparse. Seed germination time 15 to 36 days.

Distribution and Ecology
Endemic to Australia, occurs in NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as south-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range from sea level to 1100 m. Grows as a rheophyte in fringing forest along water courses.

Natural History & Notes
This species rarely produces millable logs. Wood specific gravity 0.73. Hyland (1983).

Synonyms

RFK Code
470