

# *Syzygium unipunctatum* (B.Hyland) Craven & Biffin

## Family:

Myrtaceae



Craven, L.A., Biffin, E. & Ashton, P.S. (2006) *Blumea* 51(1): 139.

## Common name:

Bark in the Wood; Watergum; Satinash, Rolopoly; Rolopoly Satinash

## Stem

Sections of bark included in the wood. Living bark layer quite thin, about 3-4 mm thick. A thin cream layer generally visible beneath the subrhgidome layer before the first section of the outer blaze.

## Leaves

Oil dots visible with a lens if not visible to the naked eye. About 1-4 oil dots per reticulation. Leaf blades about 6.2-11.4 x 2.1-4.7 cm. Midrib depressed on the upper surface.

## Flowers

Inflorescence terminal and in the upper axils, bracts deciduous, absent at anthesis. Calyx tube (hypothecium) + pedicel about 2.5-4.5 mm long, calyx tube (hypothecium) about 1.5-3.5 mm diam., calyx lobes triangular to somewhat rounded, about 0.3-0.7 mm long. Petals +/- orbicular about 1.5-2.2 mm diam., oil dots sometimes obscure, about 30-80 per petal. Outer staminal filaments about 2.5-7 mm long, anthers about 0.2-0.3 x 0.2-0.3 mm, with two, small, inconspicuous glands, terminal, near the back of the anther. Ovules pendulous from placentas near the apex of each locule, ovules about 2-3 per locule. Style about 3-6.5 mm long, shorter than the stamens.

## Fruit

Fruits very depressed, almost discoid, attaining about 8-12 x 11-15 mm, apex excavated, surface longitudinally ribbed or grooved, calyx lobes persistent, but inconspicuous, pericarp forming a very thin skin (about 0.05 mm thick) around the cotyledons, testa absent or indistinguishable from the pericarp. Seed solitary, only slightly smaller than the fruit, pericarp free from the cotyledons but not easily separable because of the matching grooves and ridges in the surface of the cotyledons and the pericarp. Cotyledons glandular, ruminant, with an amorphous, pale (not dark, even though the structure is pale it may be darker than the surrounding tissue in the cotyledons) central structure, with a distinct vascular connection with the base of the fruit. Radicle basal. Cotyledonary stipules present, small and inconspicuous.

## Seedlings

Cataphylls about 2 or 3 pairs, opposite, subopposite or alternate. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade ovate, apex long acuminate, base cuneate, glabrous; oil dots small, visible with a lens; stem shortly 4-winged. Seed germination time 38 to 63 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to NEQ, widespread in the area. Altitudinal range from sea level to 1200 m. Grows as an understory tree in well developed rain forest on a variety of sites.

## Natural History & Notes

Becoming very popular in cultivation for its beautiful flushes of pink to red new growth and the blue pumpkin-like fruits.

This species has no commercial value because it seldom grows to millable size and because the bark included in the wood renders the sawn timber structurally doubtful. Wood specific gravity 0.90-1.00. Hyland (1983).

## Synonyms

**Waterhousea unipunctata** B.Hyland, *Australian Journal of Botany Supplementary Series* 9: 145(1983), Type: V.K. Moriarty 1945: State Forest Reserve 143, Little Mossman Logging Area, 2.ii.1976 (holotypus QRS).

## RFK Code

538



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruit. © B. Gray



Habit, flower & bud, anther, fruit, seedling. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage, cotyledons present, hypogea germination. © CSIRO



Cotyledon and 1st leaf stage, hypogea germination. © CSIRO



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