

# *Toona ciliata* M.Roem.

## Family:

Meliaceae

Roemer, M.J. (1846) *Synops. Monogr.* 1: 139. Type: Madras, India, W. Roxburgh in herb. Willd. 4828; *Index P.Willd.* 1: 100, PM/6, Nov. 1799)? Fide Mabberley.

## Common name:

Cedar, Red; Cedar; Red Cedar

## Stem

Deciduous; leafless for a period between June and August. Both blaze and wood have a faint but rather pleasant aroma (cigar box or incense).

## Leaves

Faint incense-like odour in freshly broken twigs. Leaflet blades about 9-12.8 x 2.5-5 cm. Domatia, if present, are tufts of hairs or foveoles with hairs at the orifice. Young leaves pink-red.

## Flowers

Inflorescence often 30-40 cm long, approximating but seldom exceeding the leaves. Calyx lobes about 1 mm long. Petals about 3.5-4 x 3.5-4 mm. Staminal filaments hairy, about 1.5 mm long, inserted in the hairy, orange disk. Ovary base surrounded by the disk. Ovules about 6-10 per locule. Style short, stigma terminal, +/- peltate.

## Fruit

Fruits glabrous, about 15-20 mm long before dehiscent. Seeds winged at each end, seed (including the wings) about 12-15 x 3-4 mm. Embryo about 5 mm long. Cotyledons wider than the radicle.

## Seedlings

Cotyledons elliptic, about 8-10 mm long. At the tenth leaf stage: leaflet blades ovate, apex acuminate, base cuneate or obtuse, hairy on the upper surface at least along midrib, margins serrate, about 3-8 teeth occur along the margin on the upper half of the leaflet blade; petiole and rachis of compound leaf hairy. Seed germination time 6 to 8 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards to south eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1000 m. Grows in well developed rain forest on a variety of sites but probably reaches its best development (in northern Australia) in upland rain forest on soils derived from basalt. Also occurs in Asia and Malesia.

## Natural History & Notes

This species produces the Red Cedar timber of commerce. It has been pursued since the early days of European settlement in Australia. Trees grow rapidly and produce a soft durable timber which is easy to work and has always been prized as a cabinet wood. A lot of the settlement along the East coast of Australia was preceded by cedar getters who were always travelling around looking for new stands of Red Cedar. Logs of Red Cedar float and this attribute was handy in the early days before the construction of roads and bridges. Early attempts on the Atherton Tableland to float cedar logs down the flooded Barron River to the port of Cairns were disastrous with many of the logs being smashed during the passage down the Barron Falls and other floating out to sea.

The timber of this species has always been highly regarded in the manufacture of light-weight racing boats particularly sailing boats and dinghys.

Formerly used in the manufacture of cigar boxes, window frames. A useful carving timber Swain (1928).

Wood specific gravity 0.45. Cause et al. (1989).

## Synonyms

**Surenus toona** (Rottler) Kuntze, *Revisio Generum Plantarum* 1: 111(1891). **Cedrela toona** Rottler, *Gesellschaft Naturforschende Freunde. Neue Schriften* 4: 198(1803), Type: Madras. Novembr. 6. 1799. **Cedrela toona** var. **australis** (F.Muell.) C.DC., *Records of the Botanical Survey of India* 3: 368(1908). **Cedrela toona** var. **grandiflora** C.DC., *Monographiae Phanerogamarum* 1: 745(1878), Type: In Nova Hollandia (herb. Deless.). **Cedrela toona** var.



Flower and buds. © Barry Jago



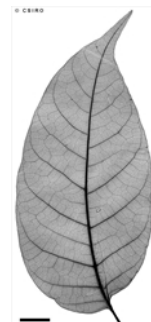
Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO

**parviflora Benth.**, *Flora Australiensis* 1: 387(1863), Type: Clarence river, Wilcox. **Cedrela toona var. vestita C.T.White**, *Queensland Agricultural Journal Series* 2 13: 66(1920), Type: Parishes of Dundas and Byron (Warwick District). Assistant Forester W.E. Moore. **Surenus australis (F.Muell.) Kuntze**, *Revisio Generum Plantarum* 1: 111(1891). **Toona australis (F.Muell.) Harms**, *Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien* 3(4) : 270(1896). **Cedrela australis F.Muell.**, *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 1: 4(1858), Type: In silvis litoralibus Australiae orientalis.

RFK Code

103



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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