Trichospermum pleiostigma (F.Muell.) Kosterm.

**Family:**
Malvaceae


**Common name:**
Whitfield Ash; False Commersonia

**Stem**
Blaze darkening on exposure to a bright brown.

**Leaves**
Leaf blades somewhat cordate, about 11-35 x 5.8-18 cm. Stellate hairs visible with a lens on both the upper and lower surfaces of the leaf blade. Leafy twigs and petioles hairy. Twig bark strong and fibrous when stripped.

**Flowers**
Inflorescence densely clothed in stellate hairs. Sepals grey-green inside to almost violet outside, 6-8 mm long, stellate hairy or scaly on the inner and outer surfaces. Petals about 5-7 mm long, white glands at the base surrounded by a tuft of hairs. Staminal filaments purple, about 3-4 mm long, anthers bright yellow. Ovary villous, particularly towards the base, about 1 mm long, stigma +/ sessile.

**Fruit**
Capsules about 6-8 mm long, villous, calyx lobes +/- persistent at the base. Seeds about 1.5 x 1.5 mm, covered with long, woolly hairs. Embryo about 1 mm long, cotyledons much wider than the radicle.

**Seedlings**
Cotyledons orbicular, about 2-3 mm diam. First pair of leaves broadly elliptic, margins toothed with about 4-10 teeth on each side. Upper surface clothed in short, white, simple hairs, lower surface clothed in sessile, stellate hairs. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves ovate, apex acute or acuminate, base rounded or cordate, upper surface hairy, margin serrate throughout; petiole, stem and terminal bud clothed in pale hairs; stipules small, ovate, hairy. Seed germination time 10 to 50 days.

**Distribution and Ecology**
Occurs in NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 350 m. Grows in lowland and foothill rain forest. This species is favoured by disturbance and is a characteristic component of rain forest regrowth. Also occurs in Malesia.

**Synonyms**

**RFK Code**
505