

## *Vitex trifolia* L. var. *trifolia*

### Family:

Lamiaceae

Chamisso, L.K.A. von (1832) *Linnaea* 7: 107.

### Common name:

Common Blue Vitex; Lagondi; Three Leaflet Vitex; Simpleleaf Chastree; Sangari; Gendavasi

### Stem

Usually grows into a small tree seldom exceeding 30 cm dbh but also flowers and fruits as a shrub.

### Leaves

Leaflet blades (or leaf blades) about 3-8 x 2-4 cm, almost white on the underside, emitting an odour when crushed, the odour resembling that of marigolds (*Tagetes* spp.) or calendulas (*Calendula* spp.). Stalk of the middle leaflet longer than those of the lateral leaflets. Midrib depressed on the upper surface.

### Flowers

Inflorescence about 5-25 cm long, pedicels nil or very short. Calyx obscurely 2-lipped with five small teeth at the apex or almost truncate, tomentose and glandular on the outer surface but glabrous within, about 2-4 x 1.5-3 mm. Corolla pubescent and glandular outside, villous inside the tube, tube nearly twice as long as the calyx, tube nearly cylindrical, about 4-6 x 2-3 mm, wider at the top, lobes about 1-5 mm long. Stamens exserted, filaments filiform, glabrous in the upper part but villous near the base, 3-6 mm long, anther locules divaricate at the base. Ovary globose, gland-dotted in the upper part, glabrous in the lower part, about 1-1.5 mm diam. Style exserted, glabrous, filiform, about 5-8 mm long, stigma shortly bifid.

### Fruit

Fruits globular, about 4-6 mm diam., calyx accrescent, persistent at the base. Seed enclosed in a stone about 4.5 x 3 mm, seeds about 3 x 1 mm. Embryo about 2.5 mm long.

### Seedlings

Cotyledons oblong, about 5-10 mm long. First pair of leaves ovate or elliptic. Margin entire or with 1-3 indistinct blunt teeth on each side. Upper surface clothed in very short fleshy hairs visible with a lens. Lower surface with very small honey-coloured glands which are just visible with a lens. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves broadly ovate, apex acute, base rounded, leaflets of trifoliolate leaves +/- elliptic, base cuneate or attenuate, apex acute, upper surface with a few, very short, pale hairs towards the base; petiole, stem and terminal bud densely clothed in very short, pale hairs. Seed germination time 17 to 75 days.

### Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as north-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range quite small, usually found just above sea level. Grows in beach forest. Also occurs in Malesia and the Pacific islands.

### Natural History & Notes

Another variety is present in WA, NT and QLD, *Vitex trifolia* var. *subtrisecta* (Kuntze) Moldenke.

This species has been used medicinally in Malaysia and Indonesia. Cribb (1981).

### Synonyms

***Vitex trifolia* L.**, *Species Plantarum* 2: 638(1753), Type: Habitat in India. ***Vitex negundo* L.**, *Species Plantarum* 2: 638(1753), Type: Habitat in India. ***Vitex petiolaris* Domin**, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 1115(1928), Type: Nordost-Queensland: an der Kaste bei Cairns (DOMIN XII. 1909). ***Vitex trifolia* var. *acutifolia* Benth.**, *Flora Australiensis* 5: 67(1870), Type: Common along the coast of Queensland and appears to be not so strictly maritime as the obovate-leaved form. ***Vitex trifolia* var. *bicolor* (Willd.) Moldenke**, *The Known Geographic Distribution of the Members of the Verbenaceae and Avicenniaceae*: 79(1942). ***Vitex triphylla* Royle**, *Illustrations of the Botany and other branches of the Natural History of the Himalayan Mountains and the Flora of Cashmere* 1: 299(1836). ***Vitex bicolor* Willd.**, *Enum. Hort. Berol.* 2: 660(1809), Type: Eastern India, Cultivated Botanical Garden Berlin, Herb. Willdenow 11709; holo: Berlin B-W.

### RFK Code



Flowers [not vouchered]. © G.

Sankowsky



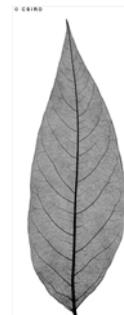
Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Fruits. © CSIRO



Fruits. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

