

# *Xanthostemon verticillatus* (C.T.White & W.D.Francis) L.S.Sm.

## Family:

**Myrtaceae**

Smith, L.S. (1956) *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 67: 38.

## Common name:

Bloomfield Penda; Penda, Bloomfield

## Stem

Usually poorly formed and multistemmed as a result of flood damage.

## Leaves

Leaves in whorls of 3-5. Leaf blades rather narrow, about 5-6 x 1-1.5 cm, petioles about 0.4-0.5 cm long. Oil dots visible with a lens. Generally 1 or 2 oil dots per reticulation. Old leaves turn red prior to falling.

## Flowers

Calyx tube (hypanthium) glabrous, about 5-6 x 10-12 mm, lobes glabrous outside, pubescent inside, broadly triangular, about 3.5-4 mm long. Petals pubescent, variable in shape, about 6-8 mm long, with linear, pubescent, staminode glands about 3 mm long at the base. Stamens about 40-50. Staminal filaments cream, about 15-20 mm long, each inserted in an orifice in the base of the anther, anthers about 1-1.5 mm long. Ovary glabrous, surrounded by but not enclosed in the calyx tube (hypanthium). Ovary about 4 mm diam., placentas peltate. Style about 28-35 mm long. Stigma small and terminal.

## Fruit

Fruits +/- globular, about 7-10 mm diam. (excluding the persistent calyx at the base). Seeds flat, about 3 mm long. Embryo features not available. Radicle features not available.

## Seedlings

Cotyledons almost orbicular, about 4-5 mm diam. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade narrowly elliptic or obovate, apex acute, base attenuate, upper surface with a few hairs along midrib towards the base and about the margin of the leaf blade; oil dots very small, visible with a lens, more obvious near the margin of the leaf blade; petiole hairy. Seed germination time 11 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to NEQ, restricted to the Daintree River and Bloomfield River watersheds. Altitudinal range probably quite small, from near sea level to 100 m. Grows as a rheophyte along creeks and rivers.

## Natural History & Notes

This little-known species has great potential for horticulture. A small tree that in cultivation flowers as a shrub or grown in a pot. The flowers are pale yellow.

## Synonyms

***Metrosideros verticillata*** C.T.White & W.D.Francis, *Queensland Dept. Agric. Bot. Bull.* 22: 24(1920), Type: Qld, Bloomfield River, nov. 1902, W. Poland; holo: BRI.

## RFK Code

798



Leaves and Flowers. © B. Gray



Leaves and Flowers. © B. Gray



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



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