

Acrothamnus spathaceus (Pedley) Quinn

Family:
Ericaceae

Quinn, C.J. (2005) *Australian Systematic Botany* 18(5): 452.

Stem

Usually flowers and fruits as a shrub 1-3 m tall but also flowers when smaller, occasionally grows into a small tree about 6 m tall.

Leaves

Leaf blades about 11-20 x 2-5 mm, midrib absent, veins fine, +/- longitudinal and parallel, radiating from the base. Apex pungent pointed. Young leafy twigs clothed in tortuous erect hairs.

Flowers

Flowers about 3 mm long. Calyx lobes green or cream-green but with white margins. Corolla lobes recurved, inner surface hairy. Anthers brown or red, +/- pendulous from the filament which is attached near the apex of the anther. Pollen white. Ovary green, seated in and fused to a darker green, 5-lobed disk.

Fruit

Fruits globular or depressed globular, about 4-5 mm diam. Calyx lobes (five) green, persistent at the base, style scar visible at the apex of the fruit. Endocarp quite hard, longitudinally ribbed, containing up to six seeds.

Seedlings

Cotyledons narrowly elliptic to linear, about 4-6 x 0.5-1 mm, slightly longer and wider than the first group of true leaves. Hypocotyl glabrous but the stem above the cotyledons pubescent. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves sessile, linear (about 4 mm long), longitudinally 5-veined. Seed germination time 199 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to NEQ. Altitudinal range from 450-1250 m. Often grows in open eucalypt forest and wet sclerophyll forest but also occurs on the margins of rain forest, in disturbed rain forest and in stunted windswept rain forest on the mountain tops.

Synonyms

Leucopogon spathaceus Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 3(2): 268(1990), Type: Queensland, Davies Creek area, January 1962, L.J.Webb & J.G.Tracey 5652; holo: BRI; iso:K,MO,NSW.

RFK Code

3059



Flowers [not vouchered]. © G. Sankowsky



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruits. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage, cotyledons still attached, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



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