

# *Austromatthaea elegans* L.S.Sm.

**Family:**  
**Monimiaceae**

Smith, L.S. (1969) *Contributions from the Queensland Herbarium* 6: 6. Type: Queensland. Several miles NW of Kuranda, Queensland. Forest Res. 1073, Smith 10847 (holo: BRI.078528); Iso: CANB, MEL,K, NSW.

## Stem

Flowers and fruits as a shrub 2-6 m tall.

## Leaves

Leaf blades about 11-20 x 2-4 cm, margins usually toothed, often somewhat irregularly, about 10-30 teeth on each side, petioles about 0.5-0.9 cm long. Lateral veins form distinct loops inside the leaf blade. Terminal buds clothed in pale yellowish-brown hairs. Oak grain in the twigs.

## Flowers

Inflorescence axillary but appears to be terminal. Perianth lobes thick and fleshy. Receptacle +/- flat-topped at or shortly after anthesis. Stamens 28-36, filaments about 0.1 mm long, anthers sessile, about 2.3 mm long. Carpels about 200, surrounded by and clothed in straight, pale yellowish brown hairs.

## Fruit

Fruiting carpels numerous, about 20 but maybe as high as 45, normally borne on a yellowish-orange receptacle, carpels glabrous, ellipsoid or obovoid, about 10-15 mm long. Seed about 9-12 mm long. Embryo about 5-7 mm long. Cotyledons about 4-6 mm long, linear, slightly wider than the radicle. Cotyledons sometimes unequal in size with the larger one +/- enveloping the smaller one.

## Seedlings

First pair of true leaves opposite, margins toothed. Seedling clothed in erect golden hairs. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade +/- ovate, apex acute, base obtuse, hairy on both the upper and lower surfaces, lateral veins forming distinct loops inside the blade margin. Seed germination time 52 to 126 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1000 m. Grows as an understory plant in well developed, undisturbed, lowland, upland and mountain rain forest.

## RFK Code

3136



Flowers. CC-BY J.L. Dowe



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



Fruit, cross section and seed. ©

W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, hypogeal germination. © CSIRO



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