

Brachychiton australis (Schott & Endl.) A.Terracc.

Family:

Malvaceae

Terracciano, A. (1897) *Bollettino delle r. Orto Botanico e Giardino Coloniale di Palermo* 1(2): 62.

Common name:

Broad Leaved Bottletree; Bottletree; Large Leaved Bottletree; Broad-leafed Bottle Tree

Stem

Deciduous; leafless for a period between June and August. White, granular and darker fibrous stripes in the outer blaze. Oak grain in the inner blaze.

Leaves

Leaf blades about 8-18 x 12-20 cm, 4-9-lobed, each ending in a fine tip. Sometimes the major lobes also have lobed margins towards the base. Twig bark strong and fibrous when stripped. Pores in the twig pith readily visible to the naked eye.

Flowers

Perianth about 15-22 mm long, valvate in the bud, stellate-puberulent outside (hairs brown), +/- glabrous inside, but hirsute with white simple hairs in the lower part and clothed in white stellate hairs on the lobes. Floral nectaries absent from the inside of the perianth tube. Usually flowering when leafless.

Fruit

Fruits glabrous outside, about 7-11 x 3-4 cm. Seeds about 7.5-10 x 5-6 mm.

Seedlings

Cotyledons oblong, about 20-25 x 20 mm, underside hairy at the base. Petiole hairy. First pair of leaves cordate. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves cordate, apex acute or obtuse, base cordate, lobes overlapping, upper surface hairy along the veins, three to 3-5 main veins radiate from the petiole; petiole, stem and terminal bud hairy; stipules oblong, hairy; stem slightly swollen towards the base. Seed germination time 4 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Queensland, occurs in NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as south-eastern Queensland. Altitudinal range in NEQ from 300-800 m. Grows in monsoon forest and vine thickets in rather rocky situations.

Natural History & Notes

A very large bottle tree that would be useful in parks or gardens in dryer areas. Flower are white and are produced when the tree is leafless.

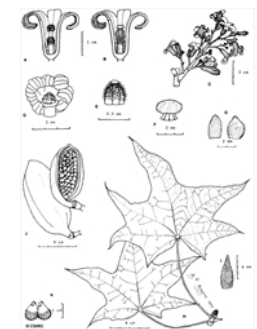
Synonyms

Brachychiton australis (Schott & Endl.) A.Terracc. var. *australis*, *Bollettino del R. Orto Botanico di Palermo* 1 : 62 (1897). **Brachychiton platanoides** R.Br., *Plantae Javanicae Rariores* : 234 (1844), Type: In ora orientali, intra tropicum, Novae Hollandiae ann. 1802 legi. Northumberland Island. **Brachychiton australis** var. *typicum* A.Terracc., *Bollettino del R. Orto Botanico di Palermo* 1 : 62 (1897). **Clompanus australis** (Schott & Endl.) Kuntze, *Revisio Generum Plantarum* 1: 78 (1891). **Sterculia australis** (Schott & Endl.) Druce, *The Botanical Exchange Club and Society of the British Isles Report for 1916, Suppl. 2* : 648 (1917). **Sterculia australis** (Schott & Endl.) Druce var. *australis*, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 968 (1928). **Sterculia australis** var. *genuina* Domin, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 968 (1928). **Trichosiphum australe** Schott & Endl., *Meletemata Botanica* : 34(1832), Type: Arbor Insulae Northumberland. ... **Brachychiton trichosiphon** (Benth.) Ewart & O.B.Davies, *Flora of the Northern Territory* : 192 (1917). **Sterculia trichosiphon** Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 1: 229 (1863), Type: Queensland, Wide Bay, J.C. Bidwill; lecto: K. Fide Guymer (1988). **Sterculia australis** var. *dietrichiae* Domin, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 968 (1928), Type: Queensland: Brisbane River, A. DIETRICH No. 1015.

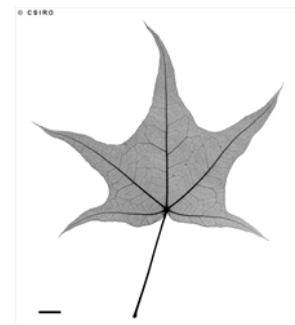
RFK Code



Flowers. © B. Gray



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Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



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