Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants - Online edition

Elaeocarpus angustifolius Blume

Family:

Elaeocarpaceae



Stem

Tree to 40 m tall, recorded to 25 m in NT. Buttresses usually present. Branches generally in whorls, particularly on small trees.

Leaves

Leaf blades about $6-18 \times 4-6$ cm, gradually narrowed into the petiole which lacks a pulvinus. Margins serrulate-crenulate. Foveoles not only in the forks of the lateral veins and the midrib but also in the forks where the lateral veins branch. Old leaves turn bright red on the tree prior to falling.

Flowers

Inflorescence ramuliflorous, racemose, to 100 mm long, minutely hairy. Bracts caducous. Pedicel 9-16 mm long. Sepals 5, 8-11 mm long, 1-2 mm wide, glabrous or finely appressed hairy outside,

Illustration of leaf and fruit. © Northern Territory Herbarium.

minutely hairy inside. Petals 5, oblong-ovate, 12-15 mm long, 3-4 mm wide, white-cream; glabrous except for the margins at base, apex variously divided. Disc hairy. Stamens 35-60, c. 5-8 mm long, anther connective tipped with a group of pale bristles, minutely hairy. Ovary subglobose, small, hairy; style tapered, 11-18 mm long, glabrous.

Fruit

Fruit globular, 15-23 mm diam., glabrous, bright blue or purple. Stone rugose.

Seedlings

Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NT. Altitudinal range in NT from near sea level to about 30 m. Usually grows in wet spring-fed rainforest. Also widespread from India to New Caledonia.

Synonyms

Elaeocarpus sphaericus (Gaertn.) K.Schum., Elaeocarpaceae. Die Naturlichen Pflanzenfamilien III, 6: 5 (1890). Ganitrus sphaerica Gaertn., De Fructibus et Seminibus Plantarum 2: 271, t. 139 (1791), Type: "A Cl. HERMANN. Prof. argentor."

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