

# *Halfordia kendack* (Montrouz.) Guillaumin

Family:  
**Rutaceae**

Guillaumin, A. (1911) *Notulae Systematicae* 2 : 98.

Common name:  
Kerosenewood; Southern Ghittoe; Saffronheart

## Stem

Shrub, or tree to 30 m high. Bark usually pale yellowish-brown. Heartwood very hard and oily, thin slivers burn even when green.

## Leaves

Basal section of the petiole swollen for a short distance. Oil dots very numerous, conspicuous and closely spaced. Leaf blades about 5-14 x 1.3-6 cm. Lateral veins forming a series of loops well inside the margin, midrib green, somewhat raised on the upper surface. Leaves crowded towards the ends of the twigs. Leaf blade emitting a strong odour when crushed.

## Flowers

Flowers about 8-9 mm diam. on a pedicel about 4-8 mm long. Calyx lobes about 0.5-1 mm long. Petals about 4-5 mm long. Stamens ten, dimorphic, five long and five short, filaments flattened, margins hairy. Filaments about 2-3.5 mm long. Anthers about 1 mm long with a gland at the tip, a tuft of hair at apex or glabrous. Disk green. Style about 1-1.5 mm long.

## Fruit

Fruits about 6-12 x 10-23 mm. Calyx persistent.

## Seedlings

Cotyledons oblong to almost linear, margins crenate. First pair of leaves with crenate margins and fairly conspicuous oil dots. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade obovate, apex obtuse, base attenuate, glabrous, lateral veins not obvious; oil dots numerous, either small and visible with a lens or conspicuous, easily visible to the naked eye. Leaves aromatic when crushed. Seed germination time 118 to 839 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP, NEQ and in south eastern Queensland southwards as far as north-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range from sea level to 450 m. Grows in beach forest, closed forest on old sand dunes and well developed rain forest. Also occurs in New Caledonia.

## Natural History & Notes

An easily grown small tree that is gaining popularity in horticulture. Small white flowers are followed by black fruits that are popular with birds.

Before the development of fibreglass and carbon fibre, the timber of this species was used in the manufacture of fishing rods. Swain (1928).

This species produces a very oily, pale coloured, hard and durable timber. Old logs and branches last for many years on the forest floor and are a real prize for anyone trying to boil the billy in wet weather. The timber of living trees will burn fairly readily if it is cut into fire chips or kindling and will serve as firewood in desperate situations.

Fruit eaten by Cassowaries and other species of birds. Cooper & Cooper (1994).

Food plant for the larval stages of the *Capaneus* Butterfly. Common & Waterhouse (1981).

Wood specific gravity 1.10 Cause et al. (1989).

## Synonyms

**Eriostemon kendack** Montrouz., *Mem. Acad. Lyon* 10: 191(1860), Type: Isle Art, New Caledonia, X.Montrouzier 17; Holo: P. **Halfordia drupifera** F.Muell., *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 5: 43(1865), Type: Moreton Bay, Leichhardt; Cape Byron, C. Moore. **Halfordia leichhardtii** (F.Muell.) Guillaumin, *Notulae Systematicae* 2 : 98(1911). **Halfordia scleroxyla** F.Muell., *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 7: 142 (1869), Type: Coast Range [Rockinghams Bay], Qld, 27 July 1868, J.Dallachy.



Flower. © G. Sankowsky



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves, fruit and buds. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO

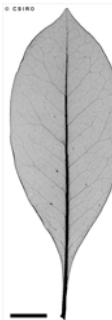
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Fruit, three views and cross section. © W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



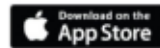
Cotyledon leaf stage. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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