

# *Lethedon setosa* (C.T.White) Kosterm.

**Family:**

**Thymelaeaceae**

Kostermans, A.G.J.H. (1963) *Botieskij Zhurnal (Moscow & Leningrad)* 48: 832.

**Stem**

Seldom exceeding 30 cm dbh. Blaze very fibrous.

**Leaves**

Young shoots and young leaf bearing twigs densely clothed in pale brown or yellowish brown prostrate hairs. Twig bark strong and fibrous when stripped, emitting a somewhat unpleasant odour. Leaf blades about 7.5-19 x 2.5-7 cm, densely hairy on the underside. Midrib depressed and lateral veins scarcely visible on the upper surface.

**Flowers**

Inflorescence not strictly axillary, but lateral on the twigs sometimes almost opposite a leaf. Tepals about 7-8 x 6 mm, the outer surface clothed in fine, white, prostrate hairs, inner surface +/- glabrous. Stamens fused into about 10-12 bundles. Ovary hairy.

**Fruit**

Capsules globular, about 15-20 mm diam., usually 6-celled, densely setose on the outer surface. Seeds about 5-8 x 4 mm.

**Seedlings**

Cotyledons oblong or elliptic, 12-15 mm long, hairy on both the upper and lower surfaces. First pair of leaves elliptic, about 12-15 x 8-10 mm, clothed in long pale hairs on both the upper and lower surfaces. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves obovate, apex shortly acuminate, base cuneate to attenuate, upper surface hairy along the midrib; petiole, terminal bud and stem densely clothed in long, pale to golden hairs. Seed germination time 557 to 606 days.

**Distribution and Ecology**

Endemic to NEQ. Altitudinal range from 100-1000 m. Grows as an understory tree in well developed rain forest on a variety of sites.

**Synonyms**

**Microsemma setosa** C.T.White, *Contr. Arnold Arb.* 4: 69(1933), Type: Streets Creek, Kuranda, 26 Dec 1929, R. H. Doggrell.

**RFK Code**

223



Flowers. © Barry Jago



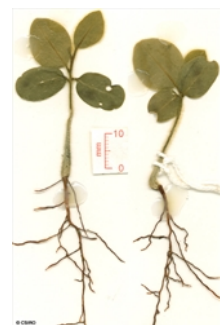
Fruit, side views, dehiscent, cross section and seed. © W. T. Cooper



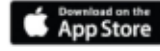
Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



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