

# *Myrsine crassifolia* R.Br.

## Family:

Primulaceae

Brown, R. (1810), *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae*: 534. Type Australian East Coast, R. Brown [1803-1805] (Bossett No. 2820) (holo: BM; photo BRI iso: K, MEL) fide Jackes, B. Aust. Syst. Bot. 18 (5), (2005).

## Stem

Shrub, usually up to 2-3 m tall, very occasionally recorded up to 5-6 m tall, often much-branched and multi-stemmed; bark light grey. Buds with numerous scales and small reddish papillae (club like hairs). Stems soon becoming hairless and without scales.

## Leaves

Leaves simple, alternate. Stipules absent. Petiole 0.2-0.7 cm long, purplish to dark pink. Leaf blade elliptic to obovate, weakly asymmetrical, 3-12 cm long, .5-3.5 cm wide, base cuneate, margin entire, flat to slightly revolute and weakly undulate, apex obtuse. Midrib slightly raised on upper surface, prominently raised below, lateral veins 9-14 on each side of midrib. Lamina with orange-red irregularly shaped and elongated or lineate transparent streaks towards base of lamina. Glabrous except for occasional scales near base.

## Flowers

Inflorescence axillary and ramiflorous, of 3-5 flowers in fascicles along branches between and below leaves. Plants dioecious. Flowers unisexual, although can appear bisexual with antherodes (staminodes with only sterile anthers present) well developed except for the absence of pollen;  $\pm$  sessile on peduncles 1-2 mm long. Flowers 4-merous, actinomorphic, calyx cup-shaped, c. 1 mm long, orange-red glands and glandular hairs present; corolla tubular, up to 2 mm long, greenish cream, reflexed after anthesis; globular to lineate glands present. Male flowers with 4 stamens, inserted towards base of tube and a reduced gynoeceum. Female flowers with 4 antherodes about 0.6 mm long, filaments very short to absent, attached to corolla opposite lobes and at base of tube. Ovary superior, about 1 mm long, unilocular, with 4 ovules embedded in central placental mass. Stigma short and stout, 2-4 lobed.

## Fruit

Fruits a globular drupe, about 4 mm diam., calyx persistent at the base, blue purple at maturity, glands on immature fruit dark red and clustered towards the apex. Fruit one-seeded.

## Seedlings

Seedlings not seen.

## Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Queensland. Collected in CEQ from near Mackay to Rockhampton including offshore islands. Grows in sandy areas in littoral forest as long as exposed foreshore.

## Natural History & Notes

This profile information and associated coding has been adapted from Jackes (2005) and Harden et al. (2014).

## Synonyms

*Rapanea crassifolia* (R.Br.) Mez, in Engler, H.G.A., *Das Pflanzenreich* 9: 365 (1902).

## RFK Code

3624



Flowers [not vouchered]. CC-BY: S. & A. Pearson.



Leaves. CC-BY: ATH.



Flowers. CC-BY: ATH.



Fruit [not vouchered]. CC-BY: S. & A. Pearson.



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