

Phaleria octandra (L.) Baill.

Family:

Thymelaeaceae

Baillon, H.E. (1873) *Adansonia* 11: 321.

Common name:

Dwarf Phaleria; Phaleria, Dwarf

Stem

Usually flowers and fruits as a shrub about 1-2 m tall.

Leaves

Leaf blades about 7.5-23 x 2-10 cm, petioles about 0.3-0.9 cm long. Twigs, petioles and leaves glabrous. Twig bark strong, fibrous and fetid when stripped. Petiole grooved on the upper surface.

Flowers

Inflorescence about 8-25-flowered. Peduncle about 2.5-7 mm long, pedicels short, up to 0.3 mm long. Perianth (hypanthium) hairy, about 8-17 mm long. Lobes petaloid. Stamens eight, arranged in two whorls, prominently exerted. Base of the ovary surrounded by a white slightly lobed or segmented disk. Stigma terminal, papillose.

Fruit

Mature fruit about 1-1.5 cm long, +/- sessile.

Seedlings

Cataphylls usually produced before the first pair of leaves or among the leaves. First pair of true leaves elliptic or broadly elliptic, about 18-20 x 8-14 mm, glabrous. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade +/- elliptic, apex acute, base attenuate. Seed germination time 37 to 232 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NT, CYP, NEQ and CEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 800 m. Grows as an understory plant in well developed, undisturbed, lowland and upland rain forest. Also occurs in Malesia.

Natural History & Notes

This small shrub is cultivated for dense clusters of white perfumed flowers which occur at the ends of the stems and the red fruits that follow.

Synonyms

Dias octandra L., *Mant. Pl.* : 69(1767), Type: India; holo: LINN?. **Phaleria pedunculata**

C.T.White, *Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock. Botany Bulletin* 21: 19(1919), Type: Queensland, Yarrabah (Cairns District), N. Michael; holo: BRI?. **Phaleria neumannii** (F.Muell.)

Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 6: 38(1873). **Phaleria blumei** var. **latifolia** Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 6: 38(1873), Type: Queensland. Cape York, MGillivray, W.Hill, Daemel. Also on Tara and Sumatra.

Drimyspermum neumanni F.Muell., *Fragm.* 5: 26(1865), Type: Queensland, Herbert River, J. Dallachy; holo: MEL?.

RFK Code

3238



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



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



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, hypogeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

