

Pittosporum spinescens (F.Muell.) L.Cayzer, Crisp & I.Telford

Family:

Pittosporaceae

Cayzer, L.W., Crisp, M.D. & Telford, I.R.H. (2000) *Australian Systematic Botany* 13(6): 865.

Common name:

Wallaby Apple; Orange Thorn; Large Fruited Orange Thorn; Apple, Wallaby; Thorn Bush

Stem

A small tree not exceeding 30 cm dbh. Living bark layer quite thin.

Leaves

Short, lateral, leafy branches or twigs often end in a pungent point. Leaves quite small, leaf blades about 10-15 x 4-7 mm. Leaf bearing twigs clothed in stalked, prostrate hairs attached by the middle.

Flowers

Calyx about 1-1.5 mm long. Corolla tube about 5-6 mm long. Petals about 2-3 mm long, glabrous throughout. Ovary densely hairy, sericeous. Stigma small, not exceeding the diameter of the style.

Fruit

Fruit about 2-3 cm diam. Numerous seeds per fruit. Each seed produced on a fleshy funicle or aril. Testa smooth in fresh fruits.

Seedlings

Cotyledon apex shortly mucronate. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf apex almost truncate, margin serrate, underside with a few prostrate hairs; a single spine about 1 cm long present in each leaf axil. Seed germination time 55 to 193 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in WA, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as north-eastern New South Wales. Not yet found in NT but its occurrence there would not be surprising. Altitudinal range from sea level to 1200 m. Grows in monsoon forest and the drier, more seasonal rain forests and the margins of these communities. Also occurs in Malesia (New Guinea).

Synonyms

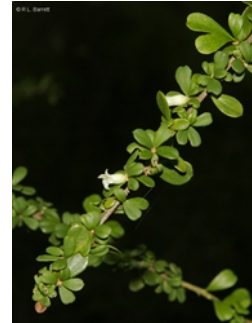
Citriobatus spinescens (F.Muell.) Druce, *The Botanical Exchange Club and Society of the British Isles Report for 1916, Suppl. 2*: 615(1917). **Citriobatus megacarpus** F.Muell., *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 2: 76(1861). **Ixiosporum spinescens** F.Muell., *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 2: 76(1861), Type: In virgultis ad flumen Fitzroy, Thozet; prope flumen Dawson, F.M. **Citriobatus pauciflorus** var. **kennyi** F.M.Bailey, *Queensland Agricultural Journal* 30: 402(1913), Type: Gayndah, Dr. F. Hamilton Kenny.

RFK Code

959



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and flowers. © R.L. Barrett



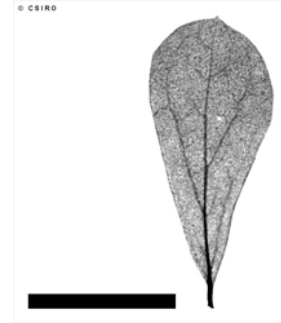
Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruit. © R.L. Barrett



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO

