

Placospermum coriaceum C.T.White & W.D.Francis

Family:

Proteaceae

White, C.T. & Francis, W.D. (1924) *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 35: 79. Type: Mount Alexander, near Daintree, North Queensland, ex Queensland Herbarium, without collectors name (flowering specimens, type).

Common name:

Oak, Rose Silky; Rose Silky Oak; Plate Seeded Oak

Stem

Large black or dark red speckles often apparent in the outer blaze. Fine, inconspicuous oak grain in the wood and a corresponding lace-like pattern in the inner blaze.

Leaves

Lateral veins scarcely visible on the under surface of the leaf blade but forming loops just inside the blade margin. Leaf blades about 8-25 x 1.6-4.3 cm, usually thick and fleshy.

Flowers

Flowers borne singly on a pedicel up to 15 mm long. Tepals glabrous, up to 15-18 mm long. Hypogynous glands 3-4, filiform. Ovary sessile, about 5 mm long. Ovules about 20-24.

Fruit

Fruits ovoid but laterally compressed, about 3.5-4 x 3 cm. Seeds, numerous in each fruit, seed plus marginal wing about 1.2-1.4 x 2.5-3.2 cm. Embryo about 6 x 16 mm.

Seedlings

Cotyledons resemble small butterfly wings, each cotyledon +/- reniform, broadly cuneate at the base, about 15-18 x 25-45 mm. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade elliptic to narrowly elliptic, apex acute or acuminate, base cuneate or attenuate; terminal bud clothed in prostrate, pink or reddish hairs. Seed germination time 42 to 70 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1200 m. Grows in well developed rain forest on a variety of sites. This species is favoured by disturbance and will successfully invade eucalypt forest in the absence of fire.

Natural History & Notes

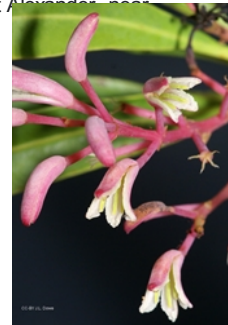
A large tree in nature. The juvenile plants have large and attractive leaves and are becoming popular as indoor plants.

Produces a useful general purpose timber but despite the fact that it is a member of the Proteaceae it does not exhibit a conspicuous oak grain.

Wood specific gravity 0.69 Cause et al. (1989).

RFK Code

409



Flowers. CC-BY J.L. Dowe



Leaves and Flowers. © B. Gray



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon and 1st leaf stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO

