

Ristantia waterhousei Peter G.Wilson & B.Hyland

Family:
Myrtaceae

Wilson, Peter G. & Hyland, B.P.M. (1988), New taxa of rainforest Myrtaceae from northern Queensland. *Telopea* 2(2): 268-270
Fig. 5D, E, G, H. . Type: "QUEENSLAND: Mount Dryander, 20°15'S, 148°32'E, Wilson & Puttock
UNSW 13291, 12.4.1982 (NSW). ISOTYPES: QRS, UNSW."

Stem

Tree to over 20 m tall. Bark brownish, the surface tessellated with thin flakes.

Leaves

Leaves simple and alternate. New growth red. Petiole to 1.3 cm long. Leaf blade elliptic, rarely obovate, about (4-) 5-12 (-16) cm long, (1.8-) 3-5 (-5.8) cm wide, base cuneate to attenuate, margin often with a few teeth, apex obtuse to acute or acuminate. Lateral veins curved throughout their length but not forming distinct loops. Oil dots visible to the naked eye or with a hand lens.

Flowers

Inflorescence paniculate, axillary, up to 4 cm long; flowers bisexual or very rarely male. Hypanthium cup shaped, glabrous on outer surface, with long hairs more or less appressed or flattened against inner surface below stamens. Sepal lobes 4 or 5, semicircular, 1-2 mm long, 1.5-4 mm broad. Petal 4 or 5, orbicular, 2.5-3 mm long, white, with short hairs flattened against inner and outer surface. Stamens about 80-100, in 2-3 series, the inner series in bundles opposite petals; filaments 1-3.5 mm long, anthers to 0.5 mm long. Staminodes or sterile anthers few, sterile anthers pale orange and larger than fertile ones to 1 mm long. Stamens free to base, if connate only at based where fused to hypanthium in bundles. Ovary reported as half-inferior in literature but observed as ± superior in dissected flowers, glabrous or with short tortuous hairs. Style 5 mm long.

Fruit

Fruits a brown globose capsule, 1-1.5 cm diam, rugose. Hypanthium persistent in fruit and appearing flat with a deflexed margin forming an inverted rim around base of fruit. Valves opening deeply to fruiting hypanthium. Seeds often 3, up to 6 per fruit, ovoid, about 9 mm long, testa pale brown. Embryo with coiled or straight cotyledons, radicle straight.

Seedlings

No features available.

Distribution and Ecology

Restricted endemic in CEQ recorded only from Mt Dryander. Altitudinal range from foothills to the summit of Mt Dryander 0-800 m. Grows as a dominant tree on the sheltered southern side of the mountain.

Natural History & Notes

This species differs to *Ristantia gouldii* by the more numerous stamens, and a broader fruiting hypanthium, *R. gouldii* has a smaller invaginated or sunken hypanthium which appears more like a narrow sunken disc at the base of the capsule. *Ristantia pachypserma* differs from both the above species in having hard, thick, furrowed bark, stamens fused together in more distinct groups and a flat or broadly obconical (inverted cone) fruiting hypanthium.

Synonyms

Ristantia sp. 'Mt Dryander' (V.K.Moriarty 1901)

RFK Code

1209



Flowers and leaves [not vouchered]. CC-BY: A. Ford



Flowers and leaves [not vouchered]. CC-BY: A. Ford



Leaf and fruit [not vouchered].
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Herbarium sheet: flowers. CC-BY:
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