

Ceratopetalum apetalum - Coachwood

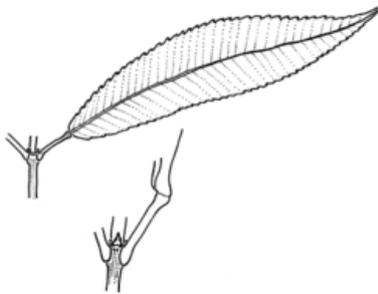
Family:
Cunoniaceae

Common Name:
Coachwood.

Distribution:
Mainly coastal New South Wales from Bateman's Bay north into the dividing ranges between NSW & Qld found in warm temperate rainforest. In HSC; Community O1 (107.9 ha) & O2 (10.9 ha), both regionally significant communities.

Derivation of Name:
Ceratopetalum; Latin, referring to the horned-like lobed petals (in one particular species) ceras= horned & petalon= a petal. ***apetalum***; Latin, without petals.

Conservation Status:
Although Coachwood occurs commonly throughout the HSC area in many of the larger sandstone gully creeklines, its habitat is highly threatened from displacement by exotic vegetation, in particular Privet, *Ligustrum* spp.



Description:
Tree to 15 m+ high (upto 40m in northern NSW); bark is grey to light grey in colour frequently with fine longitudinal coloured ridges of bark around the stem/trunk. The bark is fragrant when bruised. The leaves are actually uni-foliar compound leaves which have a finely serrated margin; are upto 12cm in length and 2-5cm in width. Abundant white flowers in early summer (November- December) are followed by equally abundant dull red coloured sepals housing the seed & shed in February which botanically are a true 'nut'.

Longevity:
Upto 200 years.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
Although this tree can have slow growth rates it makes an outstanding horticultural tree, it has excellent shape and form, is hardy, provides a colourful display of white flowers followed by a bright red fruit display similar to NSW Christmas Bush and maintains a tight attractive canopy of shiny foliage. It is considerably smaller in cultivation often only attaining a height of around 5 metres. For best results it prefers a moist soil and is quite tolerant of full sun including light frost. Coachwood was highly sought after in WWII for its timber use in rifle stocks, it is a light weight timber and was also used for aircraft frames in WWII. The wood was also popular for furniture and cabinet manufacturing.

Fauna Value:
Well recognised as a day roost habitat for the threatened Powerful Owl, flowers provide resources for a wide range of invertebrates. Fruit (seed) is consumed by parrots.







