Corymbia cadophora subsp. pliantha

Twinleaf bloodwood

Classification

Corymbia | Rufaria

Nomenclature

Corymbia cadophora subsp. pliantha K.D.Hill & L.A.S.Johnson, Telopea 6: 348 (1995).

T: Western Australia: S [SW] of Kununurra, 199.5 km from Junction of Gibb River Road and Great Northern Highway, 1 km S of Campbell Creek, 17 June 1992, *K. Coate s.n.*; lecto: NSW; isolecto: BRI, DNA, PERTH 02579618.

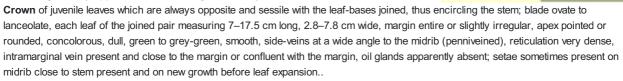
Description

Small tree to 6 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark rough to small branches, thick, ± corky, tessellated, grey-brown.

Branchlets lack oil glands in the pith; sometimes white due to opaque cuticle (not wax); new growth of leaves and branchlets initially setose, but the setae rapidly lost.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): not seen.



Inflorescence terminal compound, large and well-branched, internodes and peduncles covered with short bristle-glands when very young, but when mature quite smooth, peduncles stout, rounded or angled, 0.5–3 cm long, buds (3)7(9) per umbel, with stoutly pedicellate or rarely sessile (pedicels 0–0.5 cm long). Mature buds obovoid to pyriform or ovoid (ca 1.3 cm long, 0.7 cm wide), reddish but sometimes also with a whitish cuticle, smooth, scar absent (both opercula shed together at flowering), operculum beaked, stamens inflexed, all fertile, anthers versatile, dorsifixed, oblong, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt and papillose, locules 3 or 4, with the vertical ovule rows indistinct on the placentae. Flowers (stamens) red to dark pink.

Fruit sessile or pedicellate (pedicels 0–0.4 cm long), urceolate to narrowly barrel-shaped, 2.5–3.6 cm long, 1.7–2.2(2.6) cm wide, longer than wide, neck not well developed, surface smooth, disc descending vertically, valves 3 or 4, enclosed.

Seeds brown, 10–17 mm long, ellipsoidal with terminal wing, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): not grown.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in August and September.

Notes

Corymbia cadophora is a small, straggly tree species endemic to the Kimberley region of Western Australia where found on sandstone and shaley slopes and outcrops, stony rises, sandy rises and sometimes on deeper loamy soils on rising ground. In this region this fully roughbarked species is easily distinguished from all other eucalypts by its coarse crown leaves that are always opposite and joined at the base, thus encircling the stem (connate or perfoliate), and the terminal inflorescences. C. cadophora was formerly incorrectly known as Eucalyptus perfoliata, a misapplied and illegitimate name.

There are three subspecies differing in features of the inflorescence, buds and fruits:

C. cadophora subsp. cadophora

Common inland from Derby extending east towards Fitzroy Crossing and north to Oobagooma and the Mount House and Prince Regent River area. It is found on rocky slopes and sandy to loamy soils over sandstone, as a component of savannah woodland. It has cream flowers and the inflorescence has fewer branches and fewer umbels than subsp. *pliantha* and subsp. *polychroma*, and the inflorescence branches are not setose. The buds have a more rounded not beaked operculum; fruit are contracted at the top but do not usually have a distinct neck (plants in the Mornington area may have fruit with a prominent neck), and are 2.3–3(3.8) cm diameter.

C. cadophora subsp. pliantha

It has a very restricted distribution in the central Kimberley between Gibb River and Ellenbrae cattle stations and near Karunjie. It is



distinguished from subsp. *cadophora* by its beaked reddish buds, reddish stamens and much more branched inflorescence bearing more umbels and with setae on these inflorescence branches. A specimen from Karunjie has typical subsp. *pliantha* reddish buds with a whitish (i.e. opaque, not transparent) cuticle as is found in buds of *Corymbia collina*. The fruit are contracted at the top but slope to the orifice rather than having a distinct neck, and are 1.7–2.6 cm diameter.

C. cadophora subsp. polychroma

Described in 2007 this subspecies has a very restricted distribution in the eastern Kimberley where found in the Ragged Range growing on banded ironstone. Like subsp. *pliantha* it has a beaked operculum and quite a branched inflorescence with usually a large number of umbels and with setae on the inflorescence branches. The stamens are either cream like subsp. *cadophora* or cream with a pinkish blush, and the surface of the buds are pinkish or whitish. Fruit in most cases have a distinctive vertical neck and are 1.8–2.3 cm diameter, although there are few collections.

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Origin of Name

Corymbia cadophora: Greek kados, jar and phoreus, bearer or carrier, referring to the urn or barrel-shaped fruit borne at the ends of the branchlets.

subsp. pliantha: Greek pleios, more and anthos, flowers, alluding to the more branched inflorescences compared with those of the above subspecies.

subsp. polychroma: from Greek poly meaning many and chromus meaning coloured, referring to the variable colour of the stamens.

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