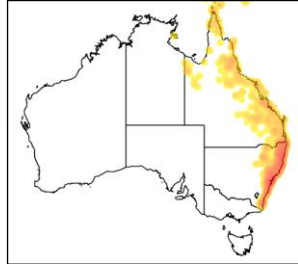


Phyllanthaceae
Breynia oblongifolia
Coffee Bush

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ETYMOLOGY
History of words

(BRY-nee-a) Author & botanist Jacob Breyn of Danzig 17th century who described the flora of Sri Lanka; The species oblongifolia = oblong leaves

LIFEFORM

Shrub Height 1-2.5m x Spread 2-4m

STATUS

Well conserved Common Widespread; Recorded @ 1509 location.

HABITAT

Creekbanks, Slopes, Gullies, Sand dunes, Open forest

TOLERANCES

Full sun to shade. Well drained to average drained soil.

LEAVES

Alternate, 1-3 x 1-2 cm, oval, apex obtuse, tapered, 2-ranked, pseudo-pinnate soft hairless thin dull green (drying black) paler green underside; lateral veins do not form loop on 1-3 mm stalks with small stipules present.

FLOWERS

Dioecious Greenish tiny insignificant, singly.

Flowering Times: Jan, Feb, March, April, May

FRUIT

Berries, 4-7 mm, globose, orange-pinkish red turning black with age containing 6 seeds in each fruit with ant-adapted food body.

Fruiting Times: Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April, May

BARK

Rough light grey to brown slightly fissured bark

STEM

Erect glabrous open branched shrub with wood straw coloured stems.

ETHNOBOTANY

Interrelations between people and plants.

Ornamental: potential usage in landscaping. Butterfly host plant with attractive growth habitat & decorative fruit which attracts fruit eating birds. Birds use bark and twigs as nesting material.

Pioneer species in severely degraded ecosystems. Essential part of climax community (stable habitat). Capable of root-suckering <5 m, forming localised patches. Good replacement for Celtis spp.

Leaves boiled to bathe sore eyes.

Plant yields Prussic / hydrocyanic acid (HCN). Suspected of poisoning sheep and cattle.

BIRD

White-cheeked Honeyeater, Wonga Pigeon, Figbird, Lewin's Honeyeater, Silveryeye, Eclectus Parrot, Brown Cuckoo-dove, Satin Bowerbird (fr), Emerald Dove

BUTTERFLY

Delias argenthona (Scarlet Jezebel), *Eurema hebe* (Large Grass-yellow), *Eurema brigitta* (No-brand Grass-yellow), *Cupha prosope* (Bordered Rustic)

MOTHS

Achaea argilla, Avatha discolor, Dysgonia (syn Parallelia) frontina, Dysgonia latizona, Dysgonia solomonensis, Phyllocnistis diaugella, Grey looper (Moths)

INDIGENOUS USE

Boiled leaves to bathe sore eyes.

ID FEATURES

Alternate simple <6cm leaves 2 ranked + small insignificant flowers; Confused with *Phyllanthus gasstroemii*; World 25 species; Australia has 5 species; Seeds birds/ant dispersed soil seed bank, Root-suckering, forming patches.