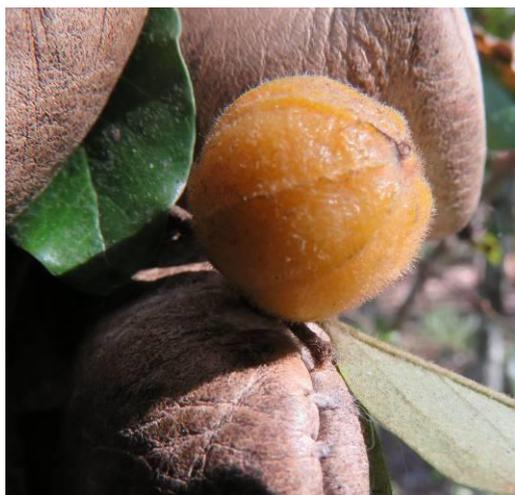
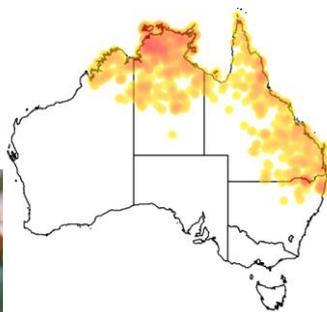


Picrodendraceae
Petalostigma pubescens
 hairy quinine tree

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Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(pet-al-o-STIG-ma) Greek petal + stigma, because the stigma are petal-like (broadly branched) The species pubescens (pew-BES-sens) clothed in short soft hair; downy referring to leaves.

LIFEFORM
STATUS

Tree 70cm-7m x 3m
 Widespread Uncommon – site population size

ORIGIN

Queensland, Northern NSW, Kimberley WA, NT (NG, Torres Islands)

HABITAT

Creeklines, ridges, rocky slopes, sandplains

TOLERANCES

Frost (high) and drought tolerant (high)

LEAVES

Alternate, 2-5 cm, ovate, dark green above and grey, pubescent below, Leaf margins undulate entire on 5-9 mm stalks;

FLOWERS

Cream, yellow to fawn, 5 petals dioecious female on a solitary stem or males in clusters of 3 or 4 **Flowering Times:** Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan

FRUIT

Capsules, 12-16 mm, ovoid, orange-yellow, pubescent when ripe. **Fruiting Times:** Jan, Feb, March, April, May, June, July, Nov, Dec

SEEDS

Once flesh removed round capsule dries and explodes scattering seeds in all directions.

BARK

Finely fissured rough dark grey black knobby with crooked arched over branches;

TRUNK or STEM

Single short crooked trunk with finer branches droop silky or woolly;

ETHNOBOTANY

Bitter drink: crush two fruit in jug of water. Fruit edible but long-lasting very bitter aftertaste. Attractive small tree for gardens, pot plant. Useful wildlife habitat; Uses for bark & fruits as brownish yellow dye, tonic, fever reducing, Malaria treatment, toothache, opium antidote, for sore eyes, antiseptic, analgesic & contraception; Well browsed by stock, Leaves suspected of being poisonous to stock in WA, Wood is brown with close grains & wavy nature shrinks when dried, used for firewood; Host plant for mistletoe: *Amyema congener*, *Amyema miquelii*, *Amyema villiflora*, *Decaisnina signata*; Carpet snakes eat fruit (B2688;) Tolerates frost, drought, heat and poor soils; Seeds germinates in a few weeks; Bark contains volatile oil as well as glycosidic bitter principle; Leaf and stems have given positive tests for presence of alkaloids;

INSECTS

Syntherata janetta (Moth)70

BIRD

Emu

BUTTERFLY

Hypochrysops apelles (copper jewel) caterpillars protected by Acrobat Ants (*Crematogaster* sp.)

INDIGENOUS USES Chewed fruits. Infusion fruit to make antiseptic wash in water to relieve sore eyes; Made a decoction from it to relieve toothache, mouth wash and cure fever. Used wood to make spears throwers; Boiled leaves to dye fibre a dark grey to black; Round fruit used as marbles by children.

ID FEATURES **Flowers Cream to fawn** with gold-like sheen in axillary clusters + Capsules globular yellow/orange tardily dehiscent bitter tasting fleshy, berry-like hard internal seed. eaves and fruit hairy. Bark of mature trees corky.