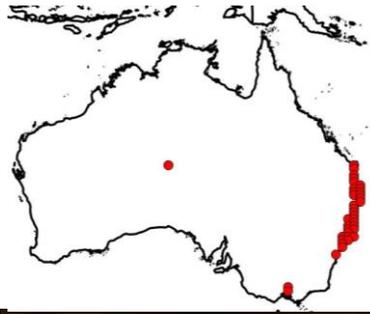


## Xanthorrhoeaceae

*Xanthorrhoea macronema*  
forest or bottle brush grass tree



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### ETYMOLOGY

(zanth-o-REE-a) Greek xanthos = yellow + rheo = flow, referring to yellow resin that flows from the stem; The species macronema (mack-row-NEEM-a) Latin macro = large + nemus = thread forest having large or long stamens referring to its size and habitat;

### LIFEFORM STATUS OCCURS

Shrub 1 m

Widespread Uncommon

Restricted to Moreton District SE Qld; Northern Limit Wide Endemic to Fraser Island SE Q, Port Stephens NSW Fraser Island SE Q, Myall Lakes, Mayers Hill NSW

### HABITAT LEAVES

Coastal lowlands to Ranges, sclerophyll forest

### FLOWERS

Basal, 2.3-3.5 x 1.2-1.8 mm, obtrullate, irregularly rounded depressed-cuneate or concave in T.S., thick, light to dark green, not glaucous edges minutely toothed upper surface;

Bottlebrush shaped, creamy-yellow; Ribbed with petals 4-5 mm longer than bracts; Spike 5-16 x 1.5-2 cm Scape diameter less than 1cm. **Flowering Times** Nov, Dec, Jan

### FRUIT

Capsules, 3-lobed embedded in woody spike with tiny dull black flattened 3 seeds **Fruiting Times** Feb, March, April

### STEM

Trunk absent; Stem sometimes branched below ground; crowns 1-many, in a loosely upright or deflexed tuft;

### ETHNOBOTANY

Phenolic component in young flower spikes; Blossoms eaten by flying-fox (fl) Blossom bat (fl) possums and sugar gliders; Flowers attract many birds and native bees; Bees gather excessive amounts of propolis from these plants; Minor importance as a source of honey useful pollen supplies; Flowers visited by honey bee, Native solitary bees;

### BEEES INSECTS

*Amegilla* sp. *Apis mellifera*, *Lipotriches* sp. *Tetragonula carbonaria*

*Erechthias acontistes*, *Meyriccia latro*, *Ptilomacra senex*. *Moerarchis australasiella*, *Moerarchis clathrella*;

### BUTTERFLY

*Delias argenthona* northern jazel, Flowers provide nectar for adult butterflies; *Tirumala hamata* blue tiger (flowers)

### INDIGENOUS USES

Important source of resin; Young leaves and succulent roots were eaten; Nectar was made into sweet drinks. Flowering stems were made into spears and firesticks;

### ID FEATURE

Leaf edges minutely toothed upper surface concave + Packing-bracts hairless + Scapes >7 times as long as spike, Flowers cream to yellow, broad brush-like from the very long erect filaments + stomates in linear, subsurface, hair-lined chambers;