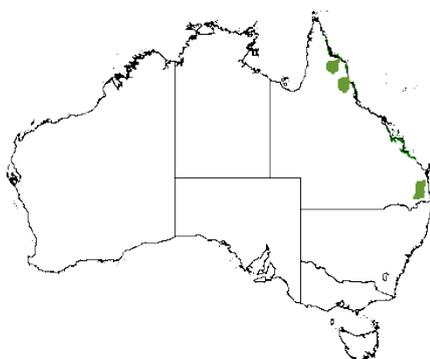
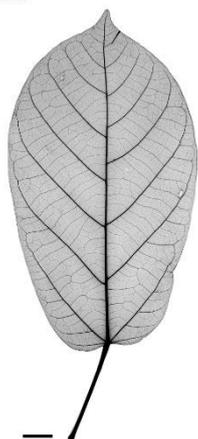


**Sterculiaceae**  
***Sterculia quadrifida***  
 peanut tree, koralba

**Ann Moran**  
**Field Botanist**

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**ETYMOLOGY**

(ster-KEW-lee-a) Latin sterculus. After Roman god of manure heaps; referring to the bad scent of flowers of some species; The species quadrifida (quad-DRIF-fee-dah) from latin quad = four + rifida = split, referring to the number of flower parts; alluding to the calyx lobes being four rather than five as in most species

**LIFEFORM**

Tree 8-20 m x 3 m spread

**OCCURS**

Bamaga Q, Broken Head NSW, Derby, Wyndham WA, Florence Falls NT (NG)

**HABITAT**

Rainforest, Sand Dunes

**TOLERANCE**

Full Sun Well Drained Tolerates long period of dry conditions, especially in the winter;

**LEAVES**

Alternate, 5-15 cm, oblong-ovate, smooth, shiny thin green with heart-shaped base, glabrous, sparsely hairy underside on slender stalks with swelling at each end; deciduous;

**FLOWERS**

Bell-shaped, 8 mm, numerous hairy creamy green, 4 sepals 10-15 stamens (lemon scented) on short racemes; Dioecious (separate male and female plants). **Flowering times:** Nov, Dec, Jan

**FRUIT**

Follicles, 5-7 cm, bright red hard woody boat-shaped, each containing 2-8 smooth ovoid dull bluish black 18 mm seeds; Edible raw or cooked; **Fruiting times:** 15 Nov

**BARK**

Smooth grey, blaze as odour biscuit brown with wavy pink lines and darker yellow-brown nearer the sapwood; Taproot forms symbiotic relationship with mycorrhizal fungi in the soil;

**TRUNK or STEM**

Cylindrical or base slightly buttressed; thick grey smooth finely wrinkled with scattered raised lenticels; white blotches stipules small narrow, dark brown, shed as soon as leaves expand; young shoots brown densely downy;

**ETHNOBOTANY**

Edible seeds taste like peanuts: remove black coat (put in sun to crack) then wash to remove mucus layer. Bruised leaves treat wounds/stings applied to treat wounds, marine & insect stings. (Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants) Excellent container plant; Very soft light timber white (green state) light grey used indoor lining, panelling, cases toys and models.

Host plant for Mistletoes *Dendrophthoe glabrescens*, *Notothixos cornifolius*

**INSECTS**

*Bucculatrix xanaula*, *Tonica effractella* (stem tunnelling moths larva)<sup>70</sup>

**BIRD**

golden shouldered parrot (fl), white-quilled rock-pigeon (seeds) chestnut quilled rock-pigeon

**BUTTERFLY**

*Hasora chromus* chrome awl

**INDIGENOUS USES**

Crushed leaves used as a poultice to treat insect stings, open wounds and sores and control heavy bleeding. Bark infusion is used to treat eye disorders; Roots and trunk house witchetty grub;

**ID FEATURE**

Leaves confused with *Ficus virens*, check leaf veins; Fruit carpels 1-5 boat-shaped, spreading dehiscent and containing several seeds;