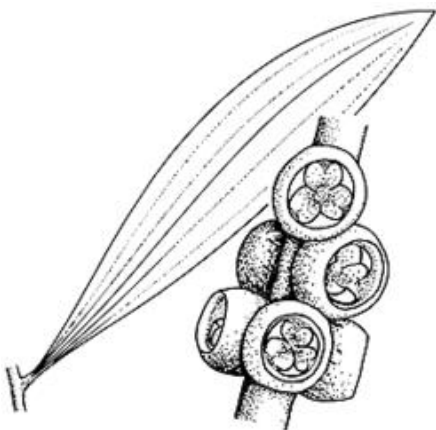


Myrtaceae

Melaleuca quinquenervia

broad-leaved paperbark.
swamp paperbark



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ETYMOLOGY

(mel-a-LOO-ca) Greek melas = black + leukos = white; The species Latin quinque = five + nervia = a nerve or veins, referring to 5 veined leaves;

LIFEFORM

Tree 10-20m x 4m species

OCCURS

Cape York Qld to Botany Bay NSW, WA within 100 km of coast (NG, Indonesia, New Cal.)

HABITAT

Coastal Swamp, Melaleuca Wetlands

TOLERANCE

Frost tender; Can take uptake 5 times more water than other plants.

LEAVES

Alternate, 3-10 x 2.5 cm, leathery, thick-textured, lanceolate, apex acute, base tapered, both surfaces hairless when mature, dull green, numerous oil dots with five main prominent parallel veins on yellowish 3-7mm stalks; new growth have appressed hairs;

FLOWERS

Spikes, 2-5 cm, thick in three's within each bract, white or cream or greenish; Petals 2-4 mm obovate, Stamens 8-12 mm, 6-10 per bundle; claw 1.5-2 mm; rachis densely hairy to almost hairless, stalkless; **Flowering Times:** Feb, March, April, May, June, July

FRUIT

Capsules, 4-5 mm, hemispherical woody cup-shaped, hairless, sepals not persistent, fused to stem and others, densely clustered along the stems; **Fruiting Times:** Oct, Nov

BARK

White to pale cream papery bark, Host to *Psaltoda plaga*, *Cicadetta hackeri* (Paperback Cicada)

ETHNOBOTANY

Leaves are a source of cineole contains 2 scented oils (Nerolidol & Linalool) used in perfumes; Juvenile plants with single mid-rib have scent early; Leaves boiled liquid used as a wash or to make a pleasant tea; **Farm use:** good for fence posts and shelterbelt or shade for stock

WILDLIFE

Flowers food for the threatened *Pteropus poliocephalus* Grey-headed Flying-fox, *Pteropus scapulatus* Little Red Flying-fox, Blossom bats, Possums, Squirrel and Greater Gliders, butterflies including Blue Tiger, Common Crow; Leaves favourite food for possums, koalas;

MISTLETOE

Host to mistletoe *Notothixos incanus*;

BEEES

Amegilla dentiventris, *Exoneurella tridentata*

INSECTS

Chelepteryx collesi, *Lophodiplosis trifida*, Spittle bug, *Oxyopsvitiosa sp* leaf weevil, *Glycaspis paludis* lerp, Mirid Bug, *Chelepteryx collesi*, *Eucerocoris subpecta*, Tube Caterpillar, *Fergusonia sp* Sawfly and nematode worm;

BIRD

Mangrove Scarlet, Lewin's Honeyeater, Rainbow/Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, Bell Miner, Eastern Spinebill, Noisy Friarbird, Striped Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Scarlet Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo;

BUTTERFLY/MOTH	<i>Arhopala centaurus</i> , <i>Orthaga thyrsalis</i> , <i>Porella arida</i> , <i>Myrascia megalocentris</i> , <i>Oiketicus elongatus</i> , <i>Hestiochora rufiventris</i> , <i>Epiphyas postvittana</i> , <i>Doratifera vulnerans</i> , <i>Gatamola thyrsalis</i> , <i>Bathrotama constrictana</i> <i>Aenetus</i> spp. ghost moths,
INDIGENOUS USE	Leaves chewed for colds, decoction (young leaves) drunk for headaches; Flowers nectar-rich blossoms soaked in water to make a sweet drink; Bark peels off in stirps and has many uses ranging from wrapping food for cooking to making bandages and disposable plates. Bark used to make containers for food and water storage and for mending holes in canoes;
ID FEATURE	Leaves broad flat, thin stiff leathery < 10cm with 5 parallel veins + Spikes cream cylindrical pubescent + Capsules stem clasping cup-shaped capsules;
COMMENTS	Landscaping use: good as ornamental or amenity plant or suitable as a screen or hedge. Specialty products: Flowers attract <i>Apis mellifera</i> , European bee which supplies good for honey; Bark used for lining hanging baskets, packaging and insulation, Wood products: solid wood products flooring (including parquetry), light construction, poles (building, transmission, piling)