

Diospyros hemicycloides (F.Muell. ex Benth.) Jessup

Family:

Ebenaceae

Jessup, L.W. (2014) *Austrobaileya* 9(2): 178-179.

Common name:

Mountain Ebony

Stem

Tree to 18 m, often flowering and fruiting as a shrub. Outer dead bark and subrhynchidome layer dark, sometimes almost black.

Leaves

Midrib depressed on the upper surface. Leaf blades about 3.5-10 x 1-3 cm, much paler on the underside. Lateral veins 7-11 pairs. Glands sparse, up to 5 on each side of midvein below. Oil dots visible with a lens. Leafy twigs slender about 1-2 mm diameter.

Flowers

Outer surface of the calyx sparsely clothed in pale brown hairs, outer surface of the corolla (particularly the lobes) densely clothed in pale straight and tortuous hairs. Male inflorescence axes 2-9 mm long, with 3(-4) flowers. Male flowers: calyx tube 1.5-2 mm long, lobes 3; corolla tube 2.5-3.5 mm long, lobes 3(-4); stamens 7-9 (six in the outer whorl and three in the inner whorl), not adnate to corolla tube; pistillode 1-2 mm long. Female flowers usually solitary, rarely a 3-flowered cyme; calyx tube about 2-2.5 mm long, lobes 3; corolla tube 2.5-3 mm long, lobes of similar length; ovary hairy, about 2.2-2.5 mm long; style about 0.7-1 mm long; stigmas bifid.

Fruit

Fruits seated on a two or 3-lobed sparsely pubescent persistent calyx. Fruits +/- glabrous, globular-ellipsoid, about 11-14 mm diam.; seeds 8-10 mm long.

Seedlings

Cotyledons almost orbicular, 12-14 mm diam. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade glabrous; midrib depressed or in a groove on the upper surface of the leaf blade. Seed germination time 47 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to NEQ, from Mt Finnigan to the Kirrama Range. Altitudinal range from 840-1100 m. Grows in mountain rain forest.

Synonyms

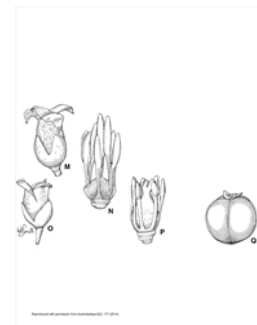
Maba hemicycloides F.Muell. ex Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 4: 290 (1868), Type: Rockingham Bay, 13 August 1866, J. Dallachy s.n. **Ebenus hemicycloides** (F.Muell. ex Benth.) Kuntze, *Revisio Generum Plantarum* 2: 408 (1891). **Diospyros** sp. **Mt Lewis** (L.S.Smith 10107).

RFK Code

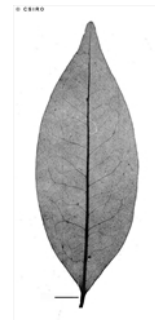
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Fruit, side views and seeds. © W. T. Cooper



M. male flower; N. dissected stamens and pistillode, male flower; O. female flower; P. dissected ovary and stamens, possible hermaphrodite flower; Q. fruit. © Queensland Government



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



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