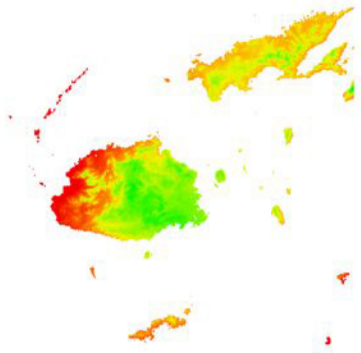


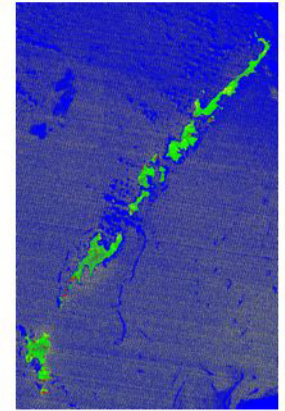
# Dry Forest Trees, Shrubs, and Lianas of Fiji

Dry forests of Fiji are critically endangered because native forests on the dry side of Fiji have been reduced to 1% of their historic extent. Dry forests in Fiji contain over 100 tree, shrub, and liana species, 25% of which are endemic or restricted to Fiji.

Red areas are the life zone of dry forests



Red areas are remaining fragments of dry forests in the Yasawas



## Identification of Dry Forest Trees, Shrubs and Lianas

All plants can be identified as either having simple or compound leaves that are arranged oppositely or alternately on a branch. Many Fijian plants can be identified by texture of leaves (fuzzy), veins in leaves (parallel veins, color), or milky latex (sap) in leaves. The plants can also be identified by their bark (color, texture) and bark slash (color inside, smell, color change when exposed to oxygen). The following are 12 of the common and important trees, shrubs, and lianas in Fijian dry forest. We provide information on their scientific name, botanical family, characteristics that can be used to identify the species, local uses, and conservation status.



*Antirhea inconspicua*

Rubiaceae

Slender tree. Leaf fuzzy with parallel veins. Leaves are simple and opposite. Bark white and inner wood changes color when exposed to air. Widespread dry forest tree in Fiji and the South Pacific.



*Flacourtia subintegra*

Flacourtiaceae

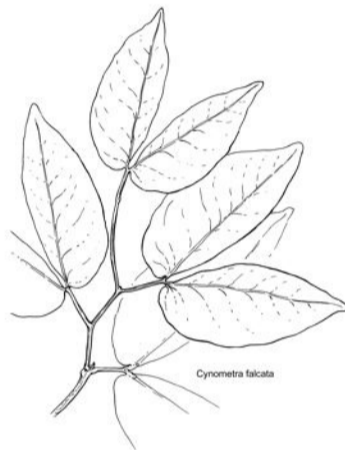
Medium-sized tree. Leaves have wavy margins. Leaves alternate and simple on zigzagging twigs. Bark cuts reveal yellow wood. Wood used for timber. Endemic to Fiji, uncommon.



*Ficus barclayana*

Moraceae

Shrub or small tree with white latex. Leaves simple, alternate on branch, feel like sandpaper. Fruit is a small fig. Plant has several medicinal uses. Endemic to Fiji but commonly found in many habitats.



*Cynometra falcata*

Fabaceae

Slender to medium-sized tree. Compound leaves that look like a Falcon in flight. Bark slashes change color as inside wood is exposed to air. Rare, endemic to Fijian Dry Forest



*Gyrocarpus americanus*

Hernandiaceae

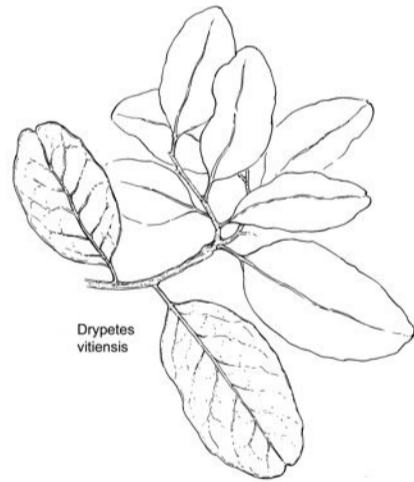
Large deciduous tree that loses leaves in the dry season. Leaves are simple and alternate, often concentrated at branch tips. Trunk smooth and tan. Seed has two brown wings and flies like a helicopter. Drink made out of the bark is taken for swelling following childbirth, for stomach ache and to treat the parasite disease filariasis. Common in South Pacific and Tropical Americas



*Maesa pickeringii*

Myrsinaceae

Shrub. Simple, alternate leaf is lighter colored on underside than above with brown veins. Twigs have small white lenticels. The leaves are used to treat sore throat. The bark is mixed with the milk of coconut and used to treat fish poisoning. Endemic to Fiji



*Drypetes vitiensis*

Euphorbiaceae

Medium-sized tree. Leaf leathery, various sizes and shapes. Leaves simple and alternate. Smooth gray-brown stem. Bark peeling off in flakes on trunk of mature trees. Used to treat headaches. Tree occurs in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Niue.



*Pittosporum brackenridgei*

Pittosporaceae

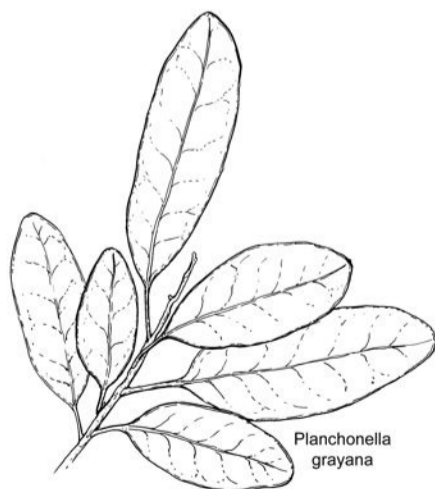
Slender to medium-sized tree. Leaf simple and alternate, spatula-shaped and clumped at the end of stems. Bark tan to brown. Inner wood changes colors when cut. Native to Fiji.



*Premna protrusa*

Verbenaceae

Shrub or small to medium-sized tree. Leaf light-green colored with entire to serrate margins. Leaves are simple, opposite on stem. Bark light brown, inner bark is white, wood tan. Leaves are used to treat headache, slight fevers and sore throat. Endemic, widespread in dry forest and occasional in rain forest.



*Planchonella grayana*

Sapotaceae

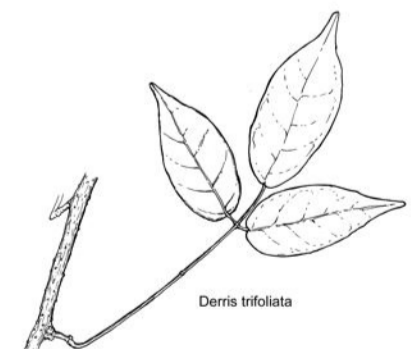
Large tree with milky latex. Leaves large, simple, alternate, glossy and yellowish. The grey bark is rough, horizontally ribbed. Wood used for timber. Widespread in Fiji and the South Pacific.



*Psydrax odorata*

Rubiaceae

Shrub to small tree. Leaf glossy. Leaves simple and opposite on straight twig. Leaf underside has a number of small pits along the vein. Widespread in the Pacific.



*Derris trifoliata*

Fabaceae

Liana. Compound leaves (usually three) with distinct drip tip. Lenticels on its stems and red ring in center of the liana stem. Crushed leaves are used to stun fish and shrimp. The plant is used for cords and rope. Common liana in South Pacific