

Macaranga



FAMILY: *Euphorbiaceae*

HABIT: A large shrub to small tree with a moderately dense spreading crown and light grey-brown trunk.

LEAVES: Large, simple, heart-shaped, long stemmed, peltate, up to 26 x 17cm. New growth is shiny light green and branchlets have prominent yellow-green stipules.

FLOWER/FRUITS: Yellowish-green male and female flowers are borne on separate trees. Lightly perfumed, male flowers occur in showy sprays. Female flowers are followed by three lobed, softly spiked green capsules which contain small, shiny black seeds.

PROPAGATION: Fresh seed.

LOCAL HABITAT: Littoral forest and rainforest regrowth.

DISTRIBUTION: North-eastern Queensland to Northern New South Wales and overseas.

GENERAL: Aborigines made string from the bark, fish spears from the soft timber and used the leaves to wrap food for cooking.

Fruit attractive to birds. A fast growing pioneer species.

REFERENCES: Alcock & Champion, 1989 *One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay*.