

## Red Kamala



S Robins



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G Williams

**FAMILY:** Euphorbiaceae

**HABIT:** A large bushy shrub to small tree with a smooth brown trunk.

**LEAVES:** Simple, alternate, ovate, long stemmed, 6-20cm long, tapering to a point at the apex. They are dark green above and dull beneath with numerous tiny red glands and whitish hairs. Venation is raised on the underside with three distinct basal veins.

**FLOWER/FRUITS:** Brownish flowers are borne on short spikes. Female flowers are followed by three lobed capsules, with a dark red, powdery covering. The dehiscent capsules mature during autumn and contains three black seeds.

**PROPAGATION:** Fresh seed.

**LOCAL HABITAT:** Dry rainforest, littoral rainforest and often common in regrowth.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Eastern Australia from north Queensland to northern New South Wales. Also Papua and eastern Asia.

**GENERAL:** A golden-red dye for silk can be made from the red powdery covering of the fruits.

A fast growing dense plant useful for windbreaks or screening. The timber has been used for flooring.

A bug, bright red in colour, is often found in large tight clusters and have been observed eating the covering of the fruit.

**REFERENCES:** Alcock & Champion, 1989 *One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay*.  
Nicholson & Nicholson, 1996 *Australian Rainforest Plants*.