

Brush Cherry / Creek Cherry



FAMILY: Myrtaceae

HABIT: Small to medium sized tree, with brown flaky bark.

LEAVES: Simple, opposite, leathery, elliptic to obovate leaves, 10 x 4cm, are shortly pointed at the apex and taper into the reddish coloured stem at the base. They are smooth dark glossy green above and dull beneath. New growth is brownish-red.

FLOWER/FRUIT: Fluffy cream flowers with showy stamens are borne in terminal and upper auxiliary sprays. They are followed by bunches of oval to pear-shaped, fleshy pinkish red berries which contain 1-2 seeds. Fruit matures during summer.

PROPAGATION: Remove flesh from fresh seed before sowing immediately.

LOCAL HABITAT: Riparian

DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Australia from Mossman in North Queensland to Nowra in southern New South Wales.

GENERAL: The very attractive foliage, flowers and fruits make this a desirable ornamental which attracts birds. The edible fruits have been used to make jelly and wine.

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