



Homalanthus populifolius

Common Name(s):

Queensland poplar

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A pioneer species that grows in gaps or on the margin of rainforests in Australia. It will produce thickets in these situations but canopy trees seem to be able to grow through. This would suggest that it prefers dappled shade but has also been seen growing in quite sunny areas. It is often used to provide shelter in revegetation areas in Australia (John Clarkson, pers. comm.).

Features:

Glabrous shrub or small tree up to 5 m high. Twigs rounded, slightly ribbed. Leaves ovate to rhombic, truncate to obtuse at base, acute to acuminate or rarely obtuse at apex, (3)-5-15-(20) cm long, usually turning red in cooler part of year; seedling leaves broadly ovate, truncate at base; petioles greater than, equal to, or less than blade; stipules soon deciduous. Racemes up to 17 cm long, usually with few solitary long-pedicellate female flowers below or at base, and many clusters of (1)-3-4 short-pedicellate male flowers (racemes rarely unisexual, or with 1-2 male flowers clustered with upper females); each group of flowers subtended by a bract and 2 prominent glands. Male flowers: stamens 4-10; perianth segments 2. Female flowers: ovary 2-celled; styles 2. Fruit more or less smooth, grooved between the 2 cells, ridged on keels, glaucous, 8-10 mm diameter (Webb et al 1988).

Flowering:

September, October, November

References and further reading:

Gardner, R. 1999. *Homalanthus* (Euphorbiaceae) in New Zealand and its fruit. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 54: 6-7

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4089



Caption: *Homalanthus populifolius* showing tree form

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: *Homalanthus populifolius* flowers

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth