

# TUCKEROO

**Alternative name:** Beach Tamarind, Carrotwood

**FAMILY:** SAPINDACEAE

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*



**Form and size:**

Small to medium tree with dense canopy spreading to 10m

**Leaves:**

Alternate, leathery branchlet with 4-12 leaflets

**Adult leaf -**

**Topside:** glossy dark green

**Underside:** paler and duller

**Bark:**

Greyish brown

Smooth

**Flowers:**

Panicles (loose branching cluster of flowers) of small white or cream scented flowers found near the ends of the branches

**Flowering Period:**

December to August

**Fruit:**

**Edible -**


Smooth yellowish capsules with black/ dark brown seeds within three lobes. The seed is surrounded by soft, yellow edible flesh.



**Ecological notes:**

Fruit eaten by Bush Rat, Fig Bird, Pied Currawong, Olive-backed Oriole, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and Common Koel.

Nectar eaten by Little Wattlebird, Lewin's Honeyeater, Dusky Honeyeater and Eastern Spinebill.

	<p>Larval plant food for Fiery Jewel, Shining Oak-blue, Black-spotted Flash, Butterflies - Dark Ciliated-blue, Pale Ciliated-blue, Common Pencilled-blue, Large Purple Line-blue and White-banded Line-blue, as well as moths.          Seeds eaten by the larva of Bright Cornelian Butterfly and Macadamia Nut Borer.</p>
<b>Cultivation:</b>	<p>Grow from fresh seed (soak seed prior to sowing to kill caterpillars that may be present)</p>
<b>Distribution:</b>	<p>Endemic to Australia          Queensland, Northern Territory, New South Wales and Western Australia          High tolerance of strong and salt laden windswept headlands, littoral rainforest, dune woodlands and monsoon rainforest.</p>  <p>The map shows Australia with red dots indicating the distribution of the plant. The dots are concentrated along the eastern coast from Queensland down to New South Wales, and along the southern coast from Victoria down to South Australia. There are also some dots in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. The word 'AUSTRALIA' is written in the center of the map, and 'EAST TIMOR' is written in the top left corner.</p>
<p><b>OTHER INFORMATION</b>  <b>Disclaimer:</b> <i>Rotary Club of Capricorn Coast can not take any responsibility for any adverse effects from the use of plants. Always seek advice from a professional before ingesting any part of a plant or using a plant medicinally.</i></p>	

## QUIZ TIME

1. Why might the alternative name, 'Carrotwood' have been chosen? Due to the colour of the
  - a. capsule
  - b. leaves
  - c. bark
  - d. flowers
  
2. What is a panicle?
  - a. A group of leaflets
  - b. A bunch of berries
  - c. A loose branching cluster of flowers
  - d. A bark fissure on the tree trunk

3. True or false. The Tuckeroo does not grow well in the salt laden windswept headlands.

- a. True
- b. False

**ANSWERS:**

- 1. A
- 2. C
- 3. B

**REFERENCES**

CSIRO. (2020). *Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants*.

Melzer, R., & Plumb, J. (2011). *Plants of Capricornia*. Belgamba.

Williams, P., Kirkpatrick, S., Griffith University. Centre for Coastal Management, & Gold Coast (Qld.). Council. (2009). *Coastal Plant Pocket Guide*. Griffith Centre for Coastal Management.

**Image 1**

Tatters. (2018). Flowering Tuckeroo tree - *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tgerus/43106707210>

**Image 2**

Stickpen. (2011). *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* tree.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cupaniopsis\\_anacardioides.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cupaniopsis_anacardioides.jpg)

**Image 3**

Jennings, J. (2007). Fruit of *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/124930081@N08/16188051131>

**Image 4**

The Australasian Virtual Herbarium. (2021). *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*.

[https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?taxa=Cupaniopsis+anacardioides#tab\\_mapView](https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?taxa=Cupaniopsis+anacardioides#tab_mapView)