

YELLOW KAMALA

Alternative name: White Kamala

FAMILY: EUPHORBIACEAE

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Mallotus discolor*



Form and size:

Small to medium tree

Leaves:

Simple, alternate, triangular to ovate in shape, 4-10 cm x 2.5-4 cm

Adult leaf -

Topside: smooth, green

Underside: Greyish yellow or whitish with dense downy hairs

Bark:

Grey to brown

Smooth

Flowers:

Greyish axillary racemes about 10cm long



Flowering Period:

November to December

Fruit:

2-4 lobed orange - yellow capsules about 6mm diameter

January to March

Ecological notes

Fruit eaten by Lewin's Honeyeater, Green Catbird, Regent Bowerbird and Grey-headed Flying Fox. It also attracts a host of butterfly species.

Cultivation:

Grow from fresh seed or cuttings.

Seeds have short viability so should be sown fresh.

Distribution:

From Townsville, Queensland to Clarence River, NSW
Subtropical, dry and littoral rainforests



OTHER INFORMATION

Disclaimer: *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.*

Fruit: Yellow dye can be produced from powdered seed capsules.

QUIZ TIME

- 1. What colour is the fruit of the Yellow Kamala?**
 - a. red
 - b. blue
 - c. yellow
 - d. white

- 2. What two states does this plant grow in?**
 - a. Tasmania and Queensland
 - b. Queensland and New South Wales
 - c. Western Australia and Northern Territory
 - d. Queensland and South Australia

- 3. What type of climate does the Yellow Kamala flourish in?**
 - a. Tundra
 - b. Tropical Rainforest
 - c. Polar regions
 - d. Subtropical, dry and littoral rainforests

ANSWERS:

1. C
2. B
3. D

REFERENCES

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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

Somerville, D. (2002). *Mallotus discolor* - fruit & foliage
http://www.brisrain.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=74

Image 2

CSIRO. (n.d.). *Mallotus discolor* habitat in cultivation.
https://apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest/text/entities/mallotus_discolor.htm

Image 3

Dustaway. (2013). *Mallotus discolor* - buds and flowers.
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/50615476@N03/8177471360>

Image 4

The Australasian Virtual Herbarium. (2021). *Mallotus discolor*.
https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?taxa=Mallotus+discolor#tab_mapView