

COFFEE BUSH

Alternative name: Oblong-leaved Breynia

FAMILY: EUPHORBIACEAE

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Breynia oblongifolia*



Form and size:


Shrub to 3m

Leaves:

Simple, alternate, ovate in shape

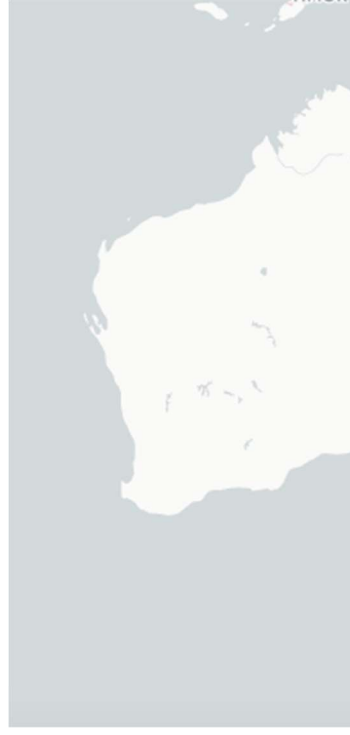
Arranged in two rows along the stem

Adult leaf -

	Topside: bluish green Underside: paler
Bark:	Light brown, smooth
Flowers:	<p>Small greenish yellow flowers occurring singly in the leaf axils, about 2mm diameter</p> 
Flowering Period:	September to December
Fruit:	TOXIC for human consumption Small berries, about 6mm in diameter

	<p>Pinkish red and maturing to black Approx 6 seeds per fruit October to January</p>
<i>Ecological notes:</i>	<p>Fruit eaten by the Brown Cuckoo-dove, Eclectus Parrot, Lewin's Honeyeater, Satin Bowerbird and Silvereye. Larval food plant for the Large Grass Yellow Butterfly and moths as well as host plant for aphids.</p>
<i>Cultivation:</i>	<p>Grow from fresh seed and cuttings</p>
<i>Distribution:</i>	<p>From Papua New Guinea, down east coast of Queensland and into New South Wales</p>

Open forests, monsoon forests, vine thickets and drier rainforests
Often scattered in eucalypt woodlands



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.*

QUIZ TIME

1. Are the berries edible?

1. Yes
2. No

2. What colour are the flowers?

- a. green
- b. yellow
- c. pink
- d. red

3. List three animals that eat this plant.

ANSWERS:

1. A. Yes, if you are a bird but they are poisonous to humans.
2. A
3. Any three from: Brown Cuckoo-dove, Eclectus Parrot, Lewin's Honeyeater, Satin Bowerbird, Silvereye, Large Grass Yellow Butterfly, moths and aphids

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

Plantnerd. (2013). *Breynia oblongifolia*.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/plantnerd/8556715151>

Image 2

Cossill, J. (2013). *Breynia oblongifolia*.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jantrac/8576341615/>

Image 3

Fagg, M. (n.d.). *Breynia oblongifolia* flower.
Coffs Harbour

https://apps.lucidcentral.org/plants_search/text/entities/breynia_oblongifolia.htm

Image 4

The Australasian Virtual Herbarium. (2021).
Breynia oblongifolia.

https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?taxa=Breynia+oblongifolia#tab_mapView