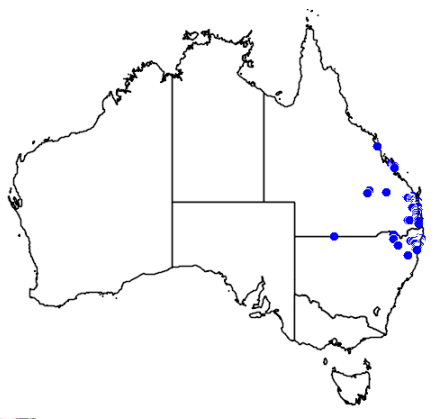


**Picrodendraceae**  
***Petalostigma triloculare***

forest quinine  
 long-leaved bitter bark

**Ann Moran**  
**Field Botanist**



**ETYMOLOGY**

(pet-al-o-STIG-ma) Greek petal + stigma: The species triloculare latin tri = 3 + locularis = chamber refers to supposedly 3 celled rather than 4 celled fruit;

**LIFEFORM**

Tree 5-15m x 3m

**STATUS**

Widespread Uncommon

**OCCURS**

Southeast Qld, NSW Nth Coast

**HABITAT**

Coastal open eucalypt woodland

**TOLERANCES**

Frost (high) and drought tolerant (high)

**LEAVES**

Alternate, 2.5-8 cm, narrow-elliptic, glossy green, pubescent grey below on 4-9 mm stalks; weeping foliage.

**FLOWERS**

Cream to fawn. Separate male and female flowers on same tree. Female: on solitary stem. Males: strong lemon scent.

males in clusters. **Flowering Times** Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan

**FRUIT**

Capsules, 10-17 mm, bright orange to reddish. Berry-like, produces masses which stay on the plant for long periods. **Fruiting Times** March, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan

**SEEDS**

Once flesh removed round capsule dries and explodes scattering seeds in all directions.

**BARK**

Greyish black with vertical fissures on larger specimens;

**TRUNK or STEM**

Shrub to small tree with weeping branchlets;

**ETHNOBOTANY**

Bitter drink: crush two fruit in jug of water. Fruit edible but long-lasting very bitter aftertaste. Attractive small tree for gardens. Ornamental: potential usage in landscaping, screen, street tree, pot plant. Leaves favourite foodplant for possums; Bark used for cotton/woolen fabric dyes; Fruit cases explode on temperature change; Leaves used for nesting:

*Megachile mystaceana* (leaf cutting bees);

*Megachilid mystaceana* (leaf cutting bee)

**BEEES**

**INSECTS**

*Syntherata janetta* (Moth)70

**BUTTERFLY**

*Hypochrysops apelles* (copper jewel) caterpillars protected by Acrobat Ants (*Crematogaster* sp)

**INDIGENOUS USES**

Fruit used by aborigines for toothache;

**ID FEATURE**

Flowers Cream to fawn with gold-like sheen in axillary clusters + Capsules smooth globular orange tardily dehiscent bitter tasting fleshy, berry-like hard internal seed; Bark vertical fissures on larger specimens.