Euphorbiaceae Homalanthus stillingiifolius small bleeding heart



Ann Moran Field Botanist





ETYMOLOGY (ho-ma-LANTH-us) Greek homalas = smooth even + anthos = flower; The Latin species

stillingiifolius (still-in-jee-if-OLE-ee-us) stilla = drop + folium + leaf; Refers to the appearance the

dropping female flower on its pedicel

LIFEFORM Shrub 2m x 1m Spread

STATUS Uncommon population size;

OCCURS Kondalilla Falls Q, Kowmung River, Murdering Gully NSW, Mt Gravatt Conservation Reserve

HABITAT Rocky ridges, stony hillslopes, Dry Rainforest

TOLERANCES Shade or filtered light

LEAVES Alternate, 2-6 cm, ovate triangular soft, peltate stipules 3-6 mm slender 1-5 cm stalks;

FLOWERS Dioecious (male and female plants), Terminal greenish yellow long spikes small racemes; Bracts

subtending flowers without basal glands; **Flowering times:** July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

FRUIT Drupes, 5 mm, on 2-6 projections few seeds with small hard knob on surface; seeds. Without

fleshy aril like H. populifolius; mature in spring. Fruiting times: Sept, Oct, Nov

STEM Shrub can be confused with Sapium sebiferum Chinese Tallow Tree

ETHNOBOTANY Gardens: Suits urban gardens. Fast growing useful rainforest understory; Dye from bark & leaf

extracts; Yellow latex treats warts; Chinese settlers used crushed to stop bleeding and treat

wounds (Webb 1948); Shrub which grows in shade. Suitable in urban areas

INSECTS Caloptilia octopunctata, Coscinocera hercules (hercules moth)70

ID FEATURE Substrub to 1.5m high; leaves papillose below; Dioecious (male and female on separate plants)