

Myrtaceae

Melaleuca nodosa

prickly-leaved paper-bark



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ETYMOLOGY

(mel-a-LOO-ca) Greek melas = black + leukos = white; The species Latin nodosus = knobby referring to the clusters of fruiting capsules;

LIFEFORM

Shrub 2-3m x 2m Spread

STATUS

Widespread in coastal districts often in heath Qld, NSW;

OCCURS

Chinchilla Bundaberg Qld to Sydney, NSW

QLD DISTRICTS

Burnett, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Mitchell, Moreton, Port Curtis, South Kennedy, Warrego, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Coastal Heath

LEAVES

Alternate, 1-3 cm x 1-3 mm, linear to fine needle-like pungent, rigid on short 1 mm stalks;

FLOWERS

Heads, 10-14 mm, yellow to white, terminal globular, on long weeping stems.

Flowering times Sept, Oct

FRUIT

Capsules, 2-3 mm, cup-shaped, grey dense rounded clusters; **Fruiting times** Nov, Dec

BARK

Papery bark on trunk

STEM

Shrub, with thin arching branches

ETHNOBOTANY

Ornamental potential usage in landscaping with masses of cream/yellow ball flowers pollinated by *Trigona carbonaria* native bee (observed) excellent source of pollen for bees (food encouraging brood-rearing). Host plant for *Amyema congener*, *Pomponatus typicus* (tip-wilting bug), *Lophyrotoma zonalis* (paperbark sawfly) Flowers visited by scaly-breasted/rainbow lorikeets, friarbird, thornbill, white-throated honeyeaters

INSECTS

BIRD

ID FEATURE

Leaves rigid, flat, apex straight; Stamens 4-7 per bundle; Heads globular, fluffy cream petals persistent; hairs short; Capsules woody fruit, clustered on stems; Confused with *Melaleuca uncinata* has prickly leaves, curved rigid leaf tips.