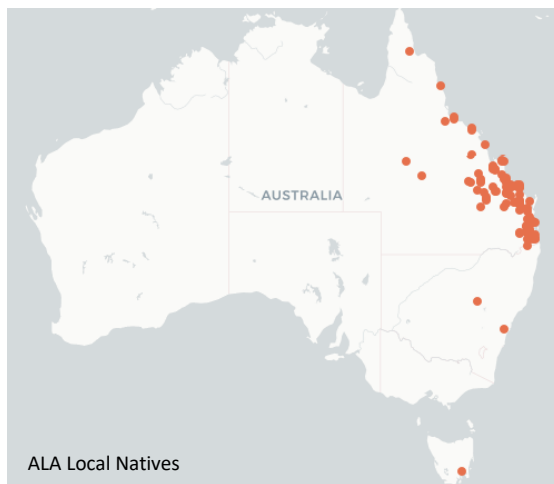


Sterculiaceae
Brachychiton bidwillii
 Rusty or Little Kurrajong



Silyoak



ALA Local Natives



messy_jessy

Ann Moran
Field Botanist



donnamareetomkinson

ETYMOLOGY

(brack-ee-KY-tun) Brachy = short + Greek chiton = a coat of mail or tunic; The species bidwillii (bid-WIL-ee-eye) After JC. Bidwill a botanical collector & one-time commissioner of Crown Lands in Qld 624

LIFEFORM

Shrub 3-4 m x 2 m Spread

STATUS

Well conserved; Rare population size; Occurs from Bowen in NE Qld to Boonah, close to Qld/NSW border;

OCCURS

Byfield, Eidsvold Monto Q to NSW

HABITAT

Dry Semi-evergreen Vine thicket, Rainforest, Open forest

LEAVES

Alternate, fleshy with velvety texture, dull green soft rusty star-hairs, blunt ovate or bluntly 3-5 lobed.

FLOWERS

Bell-shaped, 3-4 cm, stalkless candy pink, red; male 22-30 mm; female 5-10 mm; clusters emerging from trunk and branches, deciduous when flowering; Tube hairless inside; flowers 35-45 x 22-30 mm. Androgynophores: **Flowering times** Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

FRUIT

Follicles (od-like), 10-12 cm, covered in rusty stellate hairs, containing bright yellow hairy seeds;

Fruiting times: April, June

BARK

Rough dark grey furrowed;

STEM

Small tree with erect stems, swollen at base; Branches spreading in opposing growth

ETHNOBOTANY

Attractive ornamental with deciduous leaves when flowering; Grafted hybrids 'Large Pink' or 'Beau Bells' and 'Large Red'; Edible seeds eaten raw or stewed,

TOLERANCE

Full sun; Tolerates a wide range of soil types

WILDLIFE

Flowers food plant for Little Red Flying Fox *Pteropus scapulatus*;

NATIVE BEES

Stingless Native Bees *Tetragonula spp* favour the pollen

INSECTS

Chasmina pulchra, *Conogethes punctiferalis* Yellow Peach Moth, *Lygropia clytusalis*, *Tonica effractella*, *Xanthodes congenita* (Moths)

MISTLETOES:

Notothixos cornifolius

BIRD

Flowers attract Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird; Seeds eaten by Common Bronzewing, Crested Pigeon

BUTTERFLY

Arhopala micale Common Oak Blue, *Erysichton lineata* Hairy Line-blue, *Candalides absimilis* Common Pencil-blue, *Phaedyra shepherdii* Common Aeroplane, *Polyura pyrrhus*, *Polyura sempronius* Tailed Emperor

INDIGENOUS USES

Seeds were eaten roasted or raw; pounded between two stones and eaten sometimes mixed with honey; Green stick with leaves removed mixed with honey before eaten; Bark used for firesticks and some spears;

ID FEATURE

Tube glabrous inside; flowers 35-45 x 22-30 mm diam.; androgynophores (elongated stalk bearing stamens and pistil) male 22-30 mm, female 5-10 mm + Seed surrounded by hairy or bristly covering;