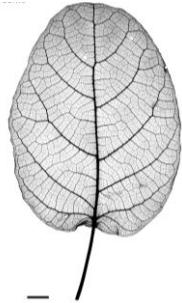


Moraceae
Ficus opposita
sandpaper fig



Ann Moran
Field Botanist



Elawrey iNat



Greg Tasney iNat

ETYMOLOGY

(FY-cus) Latin *ficus* = fig; The species *opposita* = opposite leaves.

LIFEFORM

Tree Height 7-10 m x Spread 2 m

STATUS

Well Conserved; Recorded at 416 Locations

OCCURS

Ipswich to Cooktown Q, Darwin NT, WA (NG)

HABITAT

Dry/Lowland Rainforest, Semi-evergreen/Araucarian Microphyll/Notophyll Vine forest

LEAVES

Opposite, 6-14 x 4-6 cm apex acute to obtuse base rounded to cordate margins entire to toothed with short rigid hairs semi-deciduous rough sandpapery, broadly oval.

FLOWERS

Tiny enclosed in a fleshy receptacle.

FRUIT

Berries, 1.5-2 cm, globosa rough, variously hairy pink, red purple or black in paired on 1-5-2.5 cm stalks. **Fruiting Times:** June, July, Aug

BARK

Rough dark brown, or light grey, slightly fissured; flaky on older plants; twigs hairy.

TRUNK/STEM

Short trunk shrub; Milky latex from cut bark. Stipules 5-15 mm encircling growing point, leaving circular scars down stem.

ETHNOBOTANY

Edible sweet light brown fruit, soft when ripe, Deciduous

MISTLETOE

Host plant for *Amyema benthamii*, *Amylotheca dictyophleba*, *Decaisnina signata*.

INSECTS

Agape chloropyga, *Asota* spp. (figs foam moths), *Neochera dominia* (foam moth) Fig Beetle, leaf fungus *Phyllachora rhytismaoides* Trunk attacked by borer.

WILDLIFE

Fruit attracts possums and birds.

BIRD

Silvereyes, Rose-crowned/Brown Pigeon

BUTTERFLY

Philiris innotata Common Moonbeam

INDIGENOUS USES

Polished spears using rough leaves; Eat ripe fruit, Ringworm infested skin abraded with leaves then milky sap applied to abraded area to cure ringworm, Inner bark scraped into water boiled, consumed for diarrhea or liquid used to wash sores

ID FEATURES

Fruit still on branches after leaves have shed.

