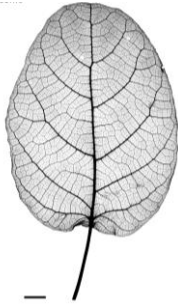


**Moraceae**  
***Ficus opposita***  
 sandpaper fig



**Ann Moran**  
 Field Botanist



ALA Local Natives



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*, *Amylothea dictyophleba*, *Decaisnina signata*.

**INSECTS**

*Agape chloropyga*, *Asota spp.* (figs foam moths), *Neochera dominia* (foam moth) Fig Beetle, leaf fungus *Phyllachora rhytismoides* 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.