

Myrtaceae

Archirhodomyrtus beckleri

Rose Myrtle



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ETYMOLOGY

(ar-kee-ro-do-MERT-us) Greek arche = chief + rhodon = rose + myrtus = myrtle

The species named after Dr H Beckler Botanist/Medical

LIFEFORM

Shrub 4 m

OCCURS

Cairns N Qld, south to Sunshine Coast and Newcastle, NSW

QLD DISTRICTS

Cook, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Lowland to highland rainforest

LEAVES

Opposite, 3-8 x 1-3 cm lanceolate, ovate, apex bluntly acuminate, base cuneate, glossy, paler below; lateral veins not conspicuous, intramarginal vein distant from margin, slightly wavy edges; inconspicuous numerous oil glands; on black 2-6 mm petiole.

FLOWERS

Petals 4.5-6 mm, obovate to elliptic, scented white or pink with 2.5-3.5 mm deep pink stamens; usually solitary, occasionally 2-3 on 15 mm **Flowering Times** Oct, Nov, Dec

FRUIT

Berries, 5-7 mm diam., globose or ovoid, smooth, yellow to orange containing 20-40 seeds; **Fruiting Times** Jan, Feb, March, April, June

STEM

Branchlets red-brown, sparsely hairy to glabrous.

ETHNOBOTANY

Edible orange berries; Dried leaves used in soups and stews for tangy flavouring.

LANDSCAPE USES

Hedges for mid-level screening. colourful sweet fruit may be picked and made into delicious sticky jam. Good container plant with scented flowers and foliage

COMMENTS

Tolerates light frost; attractive to nectar and fruit eating birds and insects; Seed germination quickly

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