

Celastraceae

Denhamia bilocularis

syn Maytenis bilocularis

orangebark



Ann Moran
Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(Den-HAY-mee-a) After Captain Dixon Denham 1786-1828 English traveller in Africa: The species bilocularis (by-ock-you-LAR-is) = bi = two + locularis = chambered, referring to 2 valved fruits.

LIFEFORM

Tree 5-12m x 2m Spread

STATUS

Occurs near-coastal, rainforest near Atherton to Biloela Q to Northern Dorrigo NSW.

OCCURS

Biloela, Cape York, Mt Spurgeon N Q, Macleay River NSW

HABITAT

Inland Open forest, Dry/Microphyll Rainforest, Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket

LEAVES

Alternate, 9 x 4 cm, obovate to elliptic rounded or bluntly tted at apex and taper into short stem at base, slightly glossy above with raised mid-vein & faint 6-8 pairs lateral veins dull beneath.

FLOWERS

Sprays in slender racemes along the branches of pale green-cream to white 4 petalled flowers; **Flowering times** Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

FRUIT

Capsules, 4 mm ovoid, yellow, splitting into 2 segments in branches of small pear-shaped to reveal 2-4 black seeds; Colourful persist on the trees for a long period.

Fruiting times Jan, Feb, Aug

BARK

Green brown smooth paper thin underbark orange or red with yellow vertical lines. Showy bark branchlets with numerous small lenticels.

STEM

Small tree with fairly dense rounded weeping crown; Pale cream fawn often crooked, branchlet grey finely ridged are dotted with small lenticels.

ETHNOBOTANY

Timber figured yellow-orange used for turning; terminal buds scaly small stipules present colourful pale yellow green new growth; Hybrids have been recorded between *M. silvestris* and *M. bilocularis* in Qld (Jessup, 1984)

BIRD

Lewin's Honeyeater

ID FEATURE

Young leaves resemble *Drypetes* species straight, broadly lanceolate
+ Fruit 4 mm, 2 celled colourful fruit capsules for a long period.