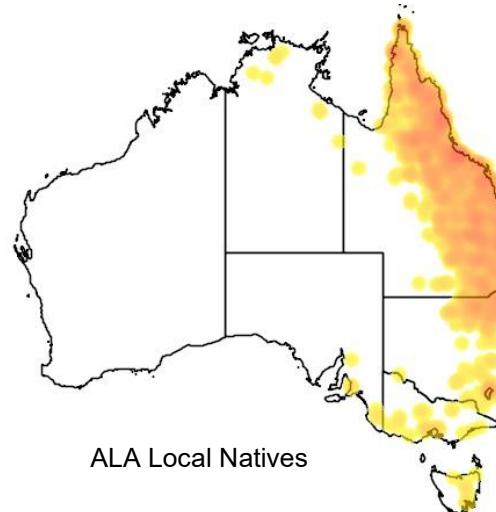


Myrtaceae

Melaleuca linariifolia narrow-leaved paperbark



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ETYMOLOGY

(mel-a-LOO-ca) Greek melas = black + leukos = white; The species linariifolia = straight leaved.

LIFEFORM

Tree 6-20 m x 2 m spread

STATUS

Widespread on coast and ranges mostly in swampy situation Qld, NSW.

OCCURS

Gladstone Qld to Bawley Point NSW, Vic

HABITAT

Wetlands/Rivers

LEAVES

Opposite, 2-4 cm x 2 mm, fine linear lanceolate, soft, green smooth decussate pairs, base attenuate, visible yellow midrib with pungent point on 2 mm stalks.

FLOWERS

Spikes, 1.5-3 cm, rod-like stamens are pinnate on the claw, soft cylindrical white to yellowish flower heads; **Flowering Time:** Sept, Oct

FRUIT

Capsules, 3-4 mm, flattened spherical clustered around branchlets with enclosed valves, approx. 2150 viable seeds/g; **Fruiting Times** Dec, Jan, Feb

BARK

Creamy white paperbark.

STEM

Fast growing low branched tree, with dense canopy; thick buttressed with horizontally spreading roots visible slightly above ground level

ETHNOBOTANY

Leaves contain Terpinen-4-ol in essential oils form 1,8-cineole used for production of bactericidal oil; Layered paperbark used in art; Wood durable for marine piles.

LANDSCAPE USES

Ornamental potential usage in landscaping and creek rehabilitation

TOLERANCE

Moderately salt, frost/drought tolerant highly waterlogging tolerant.

INSECTS

Myzus psidii (Myrtle Aphid); *Pomponatus typicus* (Tip-wilting Bug), *Lophyrotoma zonalis* (Paperbark Sawfly)

MISTLETOE

Host plant for *Amyema congener*, *Amyema gaudichaudii*

BIRD

Spectacular flowers attract nectar feeding birds. Pale Headed Rosellas

INDIGENOUS USES

Bark used to make coolamons to carrying food and other articles

ID FEATURE

Opposite linear leaves + Staminal claw usually more than 8 mm; massed heads of fluffy white flowers + Capsules cylindrical cup-shaped with included valves