

Ericaceae

Trochocarpa laurina

tree heath



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ETYMOLOGY

(tro-co-CARP-a) Greek *trochos* = wheel + *karpos* = fruit being a berry; The Latin species *laurina* *laurus* = the Laurel

LIFEFORM

Tree 5-15m x 2m

OCCURS

Fraser Is, Qld to Bermagui, NSW (NG)

HABITAT

Wet sclerophyll, Dry Subtropical Lowland Rainforest

QLD DISTRICTS

Darling Downs, Moreton, North Kennedy, Wide Bay

LEAVES

Alternate, 5 cm, elliptical to oval, apex acute, base rounded to tapered stiff, dark green glossy, paler below with 5-7 longitudinal veins, on 3-6mm stalks: buds scaly.

FLOWERS

Tubular, 2 mm, white 5 petals forming short tube 2-3 mm with 5 shorter spreading lobes in short slender terminal 1-3.5 cm spikes. **Flowering Times** Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb

FRUIT

Berry, 6-8 mm, globular, yellow to blue black; with pulpy layer surrounding a ribbed stone with 10 cells each containing single seed, tough with 8-11 ribbed woody stone; Fleshy fruit bird-dispersed; **Fruiting Times** June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct

BARK

Dark grey to brownish black, corky, finely fissured to plates; Longitudinally fissured light

STEM

Compact shrub or crooked tree; Cylindrical stem straight and ascending. Small, crooked, slight buttress, low branches.

LANDSCAPE

Attractive new growth pink foliage; Low germination rate, Germination 6-14 months, very slow-growing especially when young resprouts from stem/branches after low intensity fires. Host tree for epiphytes e.g. ferns, orchids;

BIRDS

Lewin's Honeyeater, Pied Currawong, Regent bowerbird.

INDIGENOUS USES

Used by Aboriginal people for waddies

ID FEATURES

Attractive new growth pink foliage + tough wood + Parallel veins on leaves alternate or whorled + Flowers small white hairy tubular.