

Tulipwood



FAMILY: Sapindaceae

HABIT: A small to medium tree with a dense, shady crown when grown in the open. The trunks of older trees may be buttressed at the base and the grey bark may shed in round or irregular long flakes.

LEAVES: Pinnate, 4-8 bluntly pointed, elliptic to obovate leaflets, 5-10 x 2.4cm, which are thin textured and glossy green, underside slightly hairy.

FLOWER/FRUITS: Five petalled, greenish yellow flowers, up to 2cm in diameter, are borne in axillary sprays to 28cm long. Fruits two lobed, thin walled capsules; orange-red at maturity opening to display shiny black seeds in each inflated lobe.

PROPAGATION: From seed.

LOCAL HABITAT: Rainforest, littoral forest.

DISTRIBUTION: Coastal eastern Australia from Cooktown to Bellinger River, New South Wales.

GENERAL: Timber is valued for cabinetmaking. An attractive ornamental which makes a good shade tree.

REFERENCES: Alcock & Chmapion (1989) *One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay*.