



Red Carabeen

ID # 257



Endangered forest provides habit for endangered species

Carabeen Creek is a reserve of endangered high altitude rainforest on basalt on the Atherton Tablelands where massive Red Carabeen with huge buttresses can be found.

The forest is prime breeding habitat for the Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo and a habitat for the endangered Southern Cassowary.



Interesting Fact

Considered a new genus of rainforest trees from Queensland when published in the Australian Systematic Botany journal, the scientific name *Karrabina* is derived from the name used for these trees in the Yugambeh Language Region that extends from the Logan River to the Tweed River in south-eastern Queensland.

Family: *Cunoniaceae*

Genus: *Karrabina*

Botanic name: *Karrabina benthamiana*

This species used to be placed in the genus *Geissois* as *Geissois benthamiana*; the name *Karrabina* is published to accommodate the Australian species

Also known as: Red carabeen, leather jacket, brush mahogany, red bean, pink marara and brush mararie

Origin: Australia – growing naturally in north–eastern New South Wales and south–eastern Queensland (mid-eastern coastal region).

Habitat: Common in warm temperate and sub-tropical rainforest areas, often seen in mountain gullies.

Description: This very attractive evergreen rainforest tree reaches a height of up to 35m and 140cm in diameter. The trunk is round in cross section, Bark is a wrinkly brown. Older specimens develop beautifully fluted and buttressed trunks with a fairly smooth, reddish brown bark showing small fissures.



Leaves are pinnate and opposite with three leaflets. Leaflets significantly toothed, 5-15cm long, smooth and green on both surfaces, darker above. New leaf growth flushes in pink-salmon colours turning to a bright red thereafter. The large and leafy stipules (on young growth at nodes) are prominent features when identifying the Red Carabeen.

White to pale yellow coloured flowers appear from October to January in a long, slender raceme. The fruit is a downy capsule; almost cylindrical. It splits along its sides to disperse a number of flattened brown seeds with a small papery wing in each cell.



Propagation and cultivation: Seeds ripen from May to August. Unlike many Australian rainforest trees, seed germination occurs rapidly.

Uses: It produces a reddish brown hard heavy wood that is used in flooring and panelling.

Sources:

- www.allcreatedesigns.com.au
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Carabeen
- <https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/>