



Three-veined Laurel



Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cryptocarya_triplinervis
<https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Cryptocarya~triplinervis>
<https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/2894813>

Uses

The edible fruit attracts butterflies and birds, especially the Topknot pigeon.

Interesting facts

This is an important tree for riverine restoration projects in both NSW and QLD and can tolerate salt-laden winds.

Does a common name commemorate an extraordinary botanist?



Botanist Robert Brown, who arrived on the *Investigator* in 1801, did intensive botanic research in Australia, collecting about 3,400 species, of which about 2,000 were previously unknown. In 1810, this species was formally described by Brown when he published the results of his collecting in his famous *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae et Insulae Van Diemen*, the first systematic account of the Australian flora.

For that Brown's name is commemorated in many ways. In the Australian herb genus *Brunonia*, as well as Australian species such as *Eucalyptus brownii* and *Banksia brownii*. In South Australia, Mount Brown and Point Brown (near Smoky Bay) were named for him by Flinders during the *Investigator* expedition.

So perhaps we can assume that one of this species' common names *Brown Laurel* also commemorates the man.

Propagation and cultivation

Propagation from fresh seed, removed from the flesh. Germination is reliable and takes up to 2 months.

Family: *Lauraceae*

Genus: *Cryptocarya*

Botanic name: *Cryptocarya triplinervis*

The species was formally described in 1810 by botanist Robert Brown

Also known as: Three-veined Laurel, Three-veined Cryptocarya, Brown Laurel

Origin: Eastern Australia – from Smoky Cape near South West Rocks, NSW to the Daintree River in tropical Queensland. It also occurs on Lord Howe Island where it is known as Blackbutt.

Habitat: Common in warmer rainforests, especially in littoral rainforests on sandy soil.

Description: *Cryptocarya triplinervis* is a small-medium sized rainforest tree, occasionally reaching 20m in height and with a trunk diameter of 60cm. The bark is grey brown, mostly smooth with lines of vertical bumps running up the trunk. Buttresses are present on larger trees. Twigs usually terete, occasionally fluted or angular, clothed in straight and tortuous, white or pale brown, erect hairs which persist even on old twigs.

Leaves alternate, small and broad 5-10cm long, 20-40mm wide with a prominent tip. Dark glossy green above, paler and hairy below.



Three veined with an easily seen mid vein, which is depressed on the upper side and raised on the lower side of the leaf

Dense clusters of small pale green, slightly fragrant flowers form on short stemmed panicles from September to December. Fruit, a purplish black fleshy drupe ripens from February to May. It is ovoid and slightly ribbed, 12mm long, with a single large seed inside.



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