

***Melaleuca quinquenervia* – Broad-leaved Paperbark**

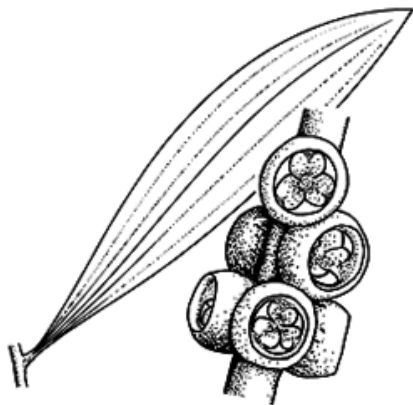
Family:
Myrtaceae

Common Name:
Broad-leaved Paperbark

Distribution:
A coastal species only north from Botany Bay to Cape York Queensland, also found in New Guinea and New Caledonia. In HSC exclusively in estuarine areas around Brooklyn. Community SF1 (4.6 ha) which is an endangered ecological community listed under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. A widely used common street tree across Sydney.

Derivation of Name:
Melaleuca, Greek, *melas* meaning black and *leukos* meaning white, referring to black fire scars on white trunks. ***quinquenervia***, Latin, *quinque*–“five” and *nervus* “veins or nerves” a reference to the five veins visible on the leaf blade.

Conservation Status:
Inadequately conserved in HSC. Small bushland remnants which contain this species are threatened by displacement from exotic plants, fragmentation from other bushland, activation of acid sulfate soils and inappropriate drainage works. Maybe some long term threats with projected sea level rise in estuarine environments.



Description:
A medium sized tree to 15m or 20m in height with distinctive papery pale coloured bark. Leaves are lanceolate in shape, 3–7 cm long and up to 25mm wide, leathery leaves are arranged alternately with five distinctive longitudinal veins. Flowers appear towards the end of summer into autumn, they are bottlebrush like and white to cream in colour. Fruit is a small woody capsule much like a gum nut, arranged in a cylindrical pattern around the stem, it contains thousands of fine seeds.

Longevity:
More than 100 years.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
A very fast growing tree. Suitable for only large gardens or parks. Develops a massive trunk. Can tolerate water logged soils. Has a wide range of indigenous people uses. Used for revegetation where erosion control is needed. Timber has been used for such applications as fence posts (particularly in wet conditions), fire wood, and flooring. Resistant to termite attack. Honey production.

Fauna Value:
Attracts a wide range of fauna. Birds and bats are attracted to the abundant nectar in the flowers.



