

CAMPHOR LAUREL

Cinnamomum camphora

TREE

Family Lauraceae

Origin China and Japan

Description An evergreen tree growing to a height of 40 m and a spread of 5 m. This species is adaptable to most soils and conditions. It is drought and frost resistant. This is a very hardy tree ¹.

Stems/Leaves Alternate, ovate to elliptic leaves with an abruptly acuminate apex. The upper surface of the leaves are glossy green whilst the lower surface is covered in small depressions (domatia). An aromatic camphor oil smell is released when the leaves are crushed ⁷. Rough grey-brown coloured bark. Young stems are red in colour. The trunk has prominent vertical cracks ⁸.

Flowers White flowers arranged in branched panicles flowering from spring to summer ⁷.

Fruit/Seed Black globular fruit approximately 10 mm in diameter, ripening April to June ⁷. Seed is dispersed by birds and water ⁴, foxes and possums. The seeds have 70% longevity the first year which decreases rapidly in the second year. Some seeds remain viable for 3 years ⁸.

Root system Taproot and lateral roots ⁸.

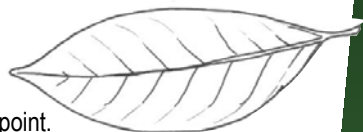
Removal techniques

Manual Seedlings are easily removed by hand. Total removal of mature plants is essential ².

Chemical A number of chemical controls are available. It is recommended to cut and paint or inject herbicide into the sapwood ².

Similar native species

Corkwood (*Endiandra sieberi*): Medium sized tree 20-30 m high with thick corky bark. Tough, glossy alternate leaves that draw to a blunt point. Small whitish flowers from early spring and shiny deep blue *Endiandra sieberi* or purple fruit ⁹.



Brown Beech (*Cryptocarya glaucescens*): Medium sized tree 15-30 m high with alternate, tough, shiny leaves that are bluish-green below. Crushed leaves have a slightly oily fragrance. Smooth grey bark on young trees and thick, fibrous red bark on mature trees. Tiny, pale green flowers and shiny, black, globular fruit ⁹.

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Murrogun (*Cryptocarya microneura*): Medium sized tree 15-30 m high with alternate, thick, tough shiny leaves that are fragrant when crushed. White flowers from November and a black fruit ⁹.

Notes

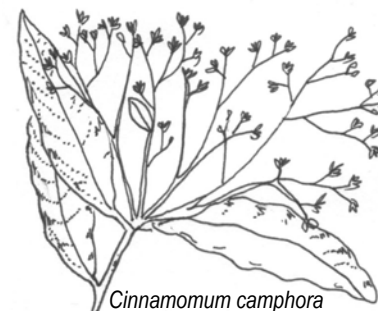
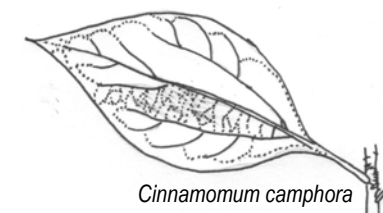
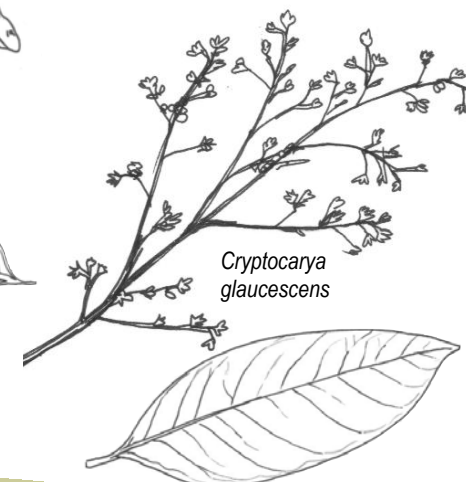
Widely planted as an ornamental and shade tree. Camphor laurels are extensively naturalized in coastal areas where often the regeneration of native rainforest is hindered ⁷. This species is also invasive of stream banks reducing light and crowding out other species. Along some watercourses the species forms a monoculture along the entire length ⁴.

Camphor Laurels reshoot after fire events, cutting or poisoning. Forms suckers from lateral roots. Young trees form multiple stems after injury ⁸.

Known to live to 500 years in native habitat ⁸.

Camphor oil possibly causes the death of fish and invertebrates ⁴.

Camphor wood is a valuable source for carving and furniture making ⁴.

*Cinnamomum camphora**Cinnamomum camphora***Similar native species***Cryptocarya microneura**Cryptocarya glaucescens*

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