

Lophostemon confertus

(Myrtaceae)

Common name: Brush box.

Localities: Brisbane River Bank, Kholo Creek, Moggill State Forest, Rafting Ground, Upper Brookfield; widespread in the district.

Growth form: A medium to tall tree to 35 m tall, with an attractive straight trunk, pinkish and gum-barked above, the lower trunk with rough, brown bark.

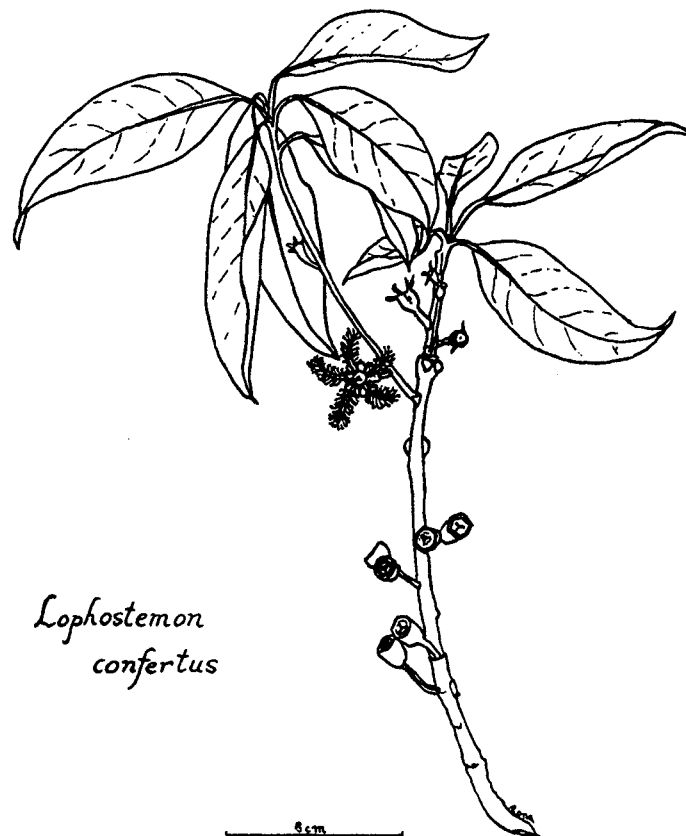
Foliage: Leaves simple, large and leathery, up to 16 cm long and 5.5 cm wide.

Flowers and fruit: Flowers are white, 10-15 mm across, in few-flowered panicles; they appear from spring to summer. The fruit is a small capsule containing numerous seeds.

Habitat: Occurs in subtropical and dry rainforest, also in gullies or other favoured situations in eucalypt forests.

Propagation and Management: The small seeds germinate readily when fresh, but also remain viable for several years. Brush box is tolerant of drought and infertile soils, although it benefits from improved fertility. It is best grown in a sunny situation.

General: Brush box is one of the favoured pioneer trees. It is reputed to be a good host tree for various epiphytic orchids, and it is also a host for the regent skipper butterfly. The timber is outstanding for flooring. The related swamp mahogany (*L. suaveolens*) also occurs in our district; it favours swampy areas or alluvial flats.



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confertus*