

Macaranga tanarius
(Euphorbiaceae)

- Common name:** Macaranga.
- Localities:** Gold Creek Reservoir.
- Growth form:** A shrub or small tree to about 6 m tall.
- Foliage:** Leaves are very distinctive, large, soft and rounded, up to 25 cm long and almost as wide, the blades on a long petiole which is attached close to the centre.
- Flowers and fruit:** Flowers are in clusters on panicles up to 12 cm long. The fruit is yellow and 3-lobed, about 1 cm in diameter, and covered in soft prickles.
- Habitat:** Occurs in subtropical and dry rainforest, and is particularly common where these have been disturbed (although not common in our area).
- Propagation and Management:** Seed needs to be germinated fresh. Macaranga will also strike from cuttings. It is very fast growing.
- General:** An ideal pioneer tree, where quick development of cover is required to provide shelter for other trees. The foliage is very ornamental. Various parts of the plant were utilised by Aborigines - leaf ash (as a cure for "swollen bellies", fibre (twine), leaves (for wrapping food when cooking), bark (twine) and the soft timber (fish spears).

