

*Polyscias elegans*

(Araliaceae)

**Common name:** Celerywood.

**Localities:** Brisbane River Bank, Kholo Creek,  
Moggill State Forest, Upper Brookfield.

**Growth form:** A small to medium tree, sometimes to  
25 m tall, often unbranched when young,  
with an umbrella-like crown.

**Foliage:** Leaves are large and bipinnate, with  
up to 55 leaflets, these glossy, up to  
13 cm long, 6 cm wide, tapering to a point.

**Flowers and fruit:** Flowers are small, in terminal panicles,  
and appear in autumn. The fruit is a  
dark purple berry about 5 mm long,  
containing two seeds.

**Habitat:** Occurs in subtropical and dry rainforests.

**Propagation and  
Management:** Propagation is by fresh seed but is  
reputed to be difficult. Celerywood  
favours loamy soils rich in organic matter  
and benefits from adequate summer moisture.  
Once established, the tree grows quickly,  
in either sun or shade. It is a hardy  
and drought-tolerant species.

**General:** The fruit attracts seed-eating birds  
in autumn-winter. Freshly cut bark has  
the smell of celery.

