

Alectryon tomentosus

(Sapindaceae)

- Common name:** Hairy alectryon.
- Localities:** Brisbane River Bank, Kholo Creek, Moggill State Forest, Priors Pocket, Rafting Ground, Upper Brookfield.
- Growth form:** A small, bushy tree to 8 m tall, the shoots covered with soft, brown hairs.
- Foliage:** Leaves are pinnate, with even numbers of hairy leaflets (4-8), with toothed margins. New growth is pink.
- Flowers and fruit:** Flowers are pink and tiny, in small panicles. The fruit is a 1- to 3-lobed capsule, each lobe containing a large black seed almost enclosed in a fleshy red aril.
- Habitat:** A common species in subtropical and dry rainforest, also occurring in eucalypt forests.
- Propagation and Management:** Propagated from fresh seed, although germination can be erratic. On reasonably fertile soils, young plants are moderately fast-growing.
- General:** A good pioneer tree; the fruit are attractive to birds. The fleshy aril surrounding the seeds is edible, and the crushed bark was used as a fish poison. Hairy alectryon provides food for butterfly larvae.

