

Austromyrtus bidwillii
(Myrtaceae)

- Common name:** Python tree.
- Localities:** Brisbane River Bank, Kholo Creek, Moggill State Forest.
- Growth form:** A small to medium, slender shrub or tree to 25 m tall, with attractive, smooth bark blotched orange brown and green, snake-like in appearance.
- Foliage:** Leaves simple, glossy, 5-9 cm long, aromatic when crushed.
- Flowers and fruit:** Flowers are small and white and are fragrant. They are borne in axillary racemes and appear in spring. The fruit is a small, black, warty berry.
- Habitat:** Subtropical and dry rainforest.
- Propagation and Management:** May be propagated from fresh seed and is difficult to propagate from cuttings. Python tree is a slow-growing plant, but is tolerant of a range of soils, including shallow clays. It will grow in shade or almost full sun.
- General:** Birds are attracted to the ripe fruit. *A. hillii* (scaly myrtle) and *A. acmenoides* (scrub ironwood) also occur in our district. Scaly myrtle is to be found in dry rainforest, particularly on stream banks.

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