

Citriobatus pauciflorus
(Pittosporaceae)

- Common name:** Orange thorn.
- Localities:** Rafting Ground and other rainforest situations in the district.
- Growth form:** A rigid, much-branched, spiny shrub to 3 m tall, with an open or compact habit.
- Foliage:** Leaves simple, up to 15 mm long and 8 mm wide, with distinctly toothed margins, the young growth often dark red.
- Flowers and fruit:** Flowers are tiny and white or greenish, appearing in summer. They are followed by attractive orange, round fruit up to 10 mm in diameter, which are produced in abundance.
- Habitat:** Dry rainforest, subtropical rainforest and wetter classes of eucalypt forest, often occurring as colonies of many plants.
- Propagation and Management:** Seed should be removed from the fruit, and will then germinate slowly. Orange thorn may also be propagated from cuttings. Plants require good drainage and they resent disturbance; they are very slow growing.
- General:** The fruit is edible and is also eaten by various birds, including wonga pigeons, and the Bright Copper Butterfly larvae are tended by ants on orange thorn. If grown in full sun, orange thorn develops into a dense shrub, which can provide nesting sites for small birds. The related *C. linearis* (bird's nest bush), with smaller leaves without toothed margins, also occurs in the district.

