

Cryptocarya obovata

(Lauraceae)

Common name: Pepperberry tree.

Localities: Kholo Creek, Rafting Ground, Upper Brookfield.

Growth form: A large tree, with a dense canopy, and a trunk which is flanged or buttressed at the base.

Foliage: Leaves are simple, up to 16 cm long and 3 cm wide; they are dark green and glossy on the upper surface, dull on the under surface.

Flowers and fruit: The greenish flowers are borne in short but dense panicles; they are followed by black fruit about 15 mm in diameter.

Habitat: Subtropical rainforest.

Propagation and Management: May be propagated from fresh seeds or from cuttings, but in either case it takes several months before obtaining a rooted plant. Pepperberry tree prefers good drainage, some shade, good nutrition and regular watering.

General: *C. microneura* (murrogun), *C. triplinervis* (three-veined cryptocarya) and *C. laevigata* var. *bowiei* (glossy laurel) are also fairly common in rainforests in the district and attract fruit-eating birds. The timber is very attractive, similar to maple.

