

## Long leaved Bitterbark

*Petalostigma triloculare*



Family: Picrodendraceae

Small tree up to 15 metres



**Distribution:** A rainforest tree of eastern Australia.

**Description:** The trunk is somewhat swollen at the base, and the bark is a dark grey with some vertical cracks and fissures. The inner bark is very bitter to taste. The leaves are a narrow elliptic shape, smooth green above, and a felty dull grey below. Green or fawn coloured flowers. The fruit is an orange/brown drupe.

**Propagation:** The fruits open explosively scattering the seeds more than two metres away. Seeds take 5 - 7 weeks to germinate.

**Habitat:** It occurs in the drier rainforests, often on sandy soil derived from granite or sandstone, and is sometimes seen on old sand dunes. A hardy, drought-tolerant and frost-tolerant plant that makes a good screen or cover.

**Uses:** The orange-coloured fruits have been used in traditional medicine and the hard wood to make spears and other implements.