

## Foam Bark

*Jagera pseudhorus*



Family: Sapindaceae

Usually a small tree, but up to 20 m



**Distribution:** warmer rainforest north from the Manning R, NSW to the Bloomfield River in far north Queensland. Widespread in New Guinea.

**Description:** bark is smooth and grey with horizontal raised ridges. Branchlets and the underside of leaves hairy. Yellow brown flowers form on panicles March to May. The fruit forms in August to November. Being a hairy capsule with three cells around 18 mm long. Capsules mature to a brown colour, after being a violet pink.

**Propagation:** Care needs to be taken when handling the seed capsule, as the hairs cause skin irritation.

**Habitat:** Tropical and sub-tropical rainforests, monsoon forest and gallery forest on soils of good fertility. A dry rainforest regeneration tree.

**Uses:** Foam from crushed bark or leaves has been used as a fish poison to kill fish enabling easy catching. The bark contains saponins, which break the bonds of water molecules, causing them to lose oxygen. The fish suffocate and float to the surface. The effect wears off quickly if there is a flow, and it has not coated the gills. The foam was also used as soap. Attracts Lewin's Honeyeater, Paradise Riflebird, Regent and Satin Bowerbirds and Noisy Miner. Host plant for caterpillars of *Nacaduba berenice* butterflies (Six Line Blue)