

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

Cryptocarya hypospodia

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Endangered



Photo: Martin Armstrong

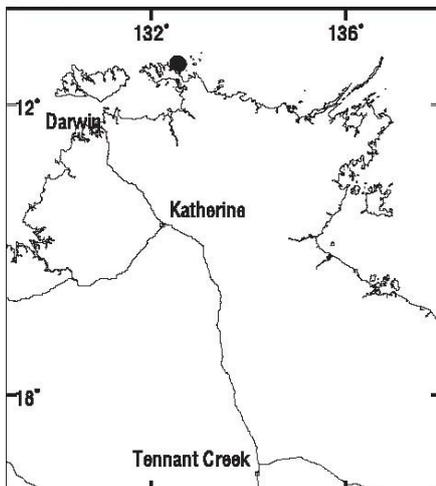
Description

Cryptocarya hypospodia is a tree to 30 m tall, with bark usually nondescript, emitting an odour, often described as peppery. The leaf undersurface is green or slightly bluish (glaucous), clothed in short, straight and tortuous white or pale brown appressed hairs when young but eventually becoming glabrous. The flowers are pale brown, cream or green, unpleasantly perfumed. The floral tube is 1-1.8 x 1.3-1.5 mm. The fruit is black when ripe, globular 13- 18 x 12-17 mm.

Fruiting: May.

Distribution

This species is known from eastern Australia and New Guinea. In the Northern Territory, it has been collected from Croker Island in 1987.



Known location of *Cryptocarya hypospodia*.

Conservation reserves where reported:

None.

Ecology

In Queensland, it occurs in rainforests of various types, particularly gallery forests on soils derived from a variety of rock types. It ranges in altitude from sea level to 900 m (Hyland 1989).

Conservation assessment

In the NT, this species is classified as **Endangered** (under criterion D) based on a presumed population of fewer than 250 mature individuals of this tree. This species is potentially a vagrant taxon and may not be reproducing in the area and hence would not warrant inclusion on a regional list. However, using the precautionary principle we have treated it as a local species as we are unable to establish if it is a remnant or a recent coloniser. No additional populations have been identified despite recent substantial survey effort on the Tiwi Islands and Cobourg Peninsula.

Threatening processes

Stochastic events such as cyclones and impact of feral animals such as pigs are potential threats.

Conservation objectives and management

Further research is required to establish the status of this population and the extent of its distribution. A monitoring program should be established.

Complied by

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References

Hyland, B.P.M. (1989). Lauraceae in Australia.
Australian Systematic Botany 2,135-367.