



*Cinnamomum oliveri* – family: LAURACEAE

## OLIVER'S SASSAFRAS

Large rainforest tree to 20 metres  
Small creamy-white flowers  
Fruit a blue or black berry

**Cultivation:** Good soil and ample water promotes growth in the early stages when it can be rather slow; shelter from frost and severe exposure.



Timber workers call this tree 'Camphorwood' for its fragrant timber. It grows into a large tree with a beautiful crown of thick foliage with flushes of red new growth. It is quite different in appearance from its close relative Camphor Laurel. The latter is a serious weed tree in subtropical areas. Laurels bear fruits of high food value for pigeons as do avocados (also in the Laurel family) for humans, but *Oliver's Sassafras* is rather sporadic in its fruit production. The scented leaves with wavy edges are a distinctive feature of this plant. It occurs in many highland and lowland rainforests on poor soil from the Illawarra region in NSW to Eungella near Mackay in QLD. It lasts well as a tub plant indoors and outdoors.



When propagating the seeds, the black flesh should be peeled off first or they will not germinate.