

## Plant of the Month - February

by Allan Carr

### *Commersonia bartramia*

**Brown Kurrajong**  
BYTTNERIACEAE

**Pronunciation:** com-er-SO-nee-a bar-TRAY-mee-a

**Derivation:** *Commersonia*, after French naturalist, Philibert Commerson who travelled with Louis Bouganville on his circumnavigation of the globe, 1766-1769; *bartramia*, after Anglo-American, John Bartram who introduced many American trees to Europe.



Flowers



Fruits

*Commersonia*, is a genus of about 21 species in Australia closely related to *Rulingia* and a recently described genus, *Androcalva*. *C. bartramia* is found from Cape York, Qld, to Clarence River, northern NSW.

**Description:** *C. bartramia* is a tree to with foliage in horizontal layers, a pioneer species on rainforest edges and regrowth areas. Bark is greyish brown with conspicuous \*lenticels.

**Leaves** to 150 mm x 90 mm are alternate, toothed, hairy and paler below, wide at the base and tapering to a point. With a lens \*stellate hairs can be seen on leaves and twigs.

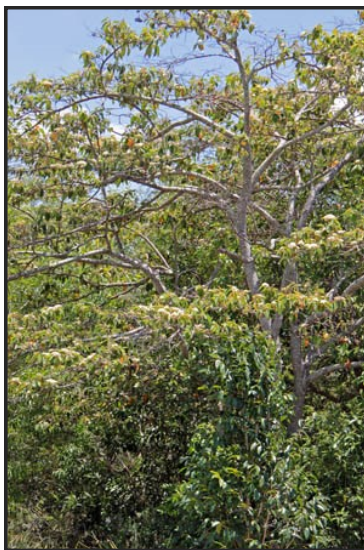
**Flowers** about 6 mm across are 5-petaled in dense clusters from November to February.



**Fruits** are capsules to 12 mm diameter covered in 5 mm long hairy bristles. They split into 5 segments with one or two shiny black seeds in each.

\*lenticel = a lens-shaped dot or pit through which gases pass

\*stellate = star-shaped



Habit



Leaves



Lenticels