**Stout Paperbark**

Scientific name: *Melaleuca preissiana*

Aboriginal name: Moonah (Noongar)

**About ...**

The Stout Paperbark is native to the south-west of Western Australia. It is found from the Geraldton Sandplains along the Swan Coastal Plain to Esperance. *Melaleuca preissiana* was first formally described by Johannes Conrad Schauer in Johann Georg Christian Lehmann's 1844 Plantae Preissianae from a specimen collected by James Drummond. Preissiana honours Johann August Ludwig Preiss (1811 – 1883) who collected in W A from 1839 – 1841 upwards of 2,700 plant species. There are nearly 300 species of melaleucas, commonly known as paperbarks or tea-trees, with the south-west of Western Australia having the greatest density of species. Melaleuca oil has antibacterial and antiseptic properties.

**Aboriginal Uses**

- The young leaves were crushed and inhaled to treat headaches and colds.
- The bark was used to wrap food for cooking, as bandages to bind wounds and for sanitary purposes as a natural toilet paper.

**Family**

MYRTACEAE

**Climate**

Temperate

**Habitat**

Sand in swampy, seasonally wet areas on coastal sandplains

**Form**

Shrub or tree

2 - 9 m height

White, papery bark

**Foliage**

Thin, pointed leaves

Leaves are arranged alternately and are 6–14 mm long

**Flower**

White-cream bottlebrush type flowers on the ends of branches

Kambarang to early Bunuru (November to February)

Flowers are up to 20 mm in diameter with 7 to 21 groups of flowers in threes.

**Fruit**

Woody capsules, 2.5–3 mm long

**Used as food**

**Used as medicine**

**Used as resources**

**Local to SW WA**

Caution: Do not prepare bush tucker food without having been shown by Indigenous or experienced persons. Some bush tucker if eaten in large quantities or not prepared correctly can cause illness.

Developed by SERCUL for use with the Bush Tucker Education Program.

**Local to SW WA**