

## ***Callicoma serratifolia* - Black Wattle**

**Family:**

Cunoniaceae

**Distribution:**

North from Batemans Bay into south east QLD. In HSC Communities O1 (107.9ha), BG1 (37.2 ha), L1 (837.3 ha) & A (5,579.4 ha). It is generally only found along stream banks and occasionally in areas of seepage where adequate moisture allows it to survive dry periods.

**Common Name:**

Black Wattle

**Derivation of Name:**

***Callicoma***, Greek, *kalos* meaning beautiful and *kome* meaning hair– a reference to the beautiful furry flowers. ***serratifolia***, Latin *serratus* and *folia*; saw edged foliage.

**Conservation Status:**

Adequately conserved in HSC, however it is under threat from the establishment and displacement by exotic vegetation in its natural habitat.



**Description:**

Tree to 15 m high in HSC depending upon site history in relation to floods, fire and exposure of location, can get taller outside of HSC. Bark generally smooth, dark grey/ brown in colour often supporting pale coloured lichens, bark on older trees may become rough at the base and very dark in colour. Adult leaves are coarsely toothed, dark green and have a paler silver reverse they are elliptical and from 4cm to 12cm in length, 3cm to 5cm wide. The creamy white flowers occur through early summer. Light brown coloured fruit are ripe in autumn shedding fine seed and spent fruit are persistent on the tree darkening with age.

**Longevity:**

Over 50 years.

**Horticultural Merit and uses:**

An attractive small tree for many horticultural applications. Rarely exceeds 6m in cultivation unless grown in a heavy shade where it will stretch up to sunlight. Tolerant of most soil types as long as adequate moisture is provided in drier periods, it is actually a very hardy tree once established. Can be pruned to shape particularly for hedging and will readily resprout from very heavy pruning. Early settlers used the long stems of *Callicoma* with clay to make “wattle and daub” huts.

**Fauna Value:**

Foliage is eaten by the larvae of the Eastern Flat butterfly. Seeds are reputedly eaten by birds. Flowers attract invertebrates.



