

Rhaphiolepis bibas

COMMON NAME

loquat

SYNONYMS

Eriobotrya japonica (Thunb.) Lindl.

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Rhaphiolepis bibas (Lour.) Galasso & Banfi

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

ERIJAP

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree up to 8m high when mature; trunk well developed; primary stems erect; secondary stems spreading; young stems stout, white-tomentose; older stems with prominent leaf scars, becoming greyish-brown and transversely calloused. Leaves near branch tips; petiole about 15mm long, stout; blade oblanceolate to narrowly elliptic, 150~350 x 75~100mm, acute, tapering to cuneate or slightly auriculate base, very coriaceous, generally rugose, dark green and glossy above, thinly grey- or brown-tomentose below (very young leaves completely brown-tomentose), serrate at least in upper half; stipules long-triangular, generally attenuate, pilose. Infl. of many flowers; pedicels 5~8mm long, brownish tomentose. Sepals fused for most of length; lobes 2~4mm long, brown-tomentose. Petals white or ivory, oblong, around 7~8 x 3~4mm, shallowly emarginate. Fruit pyriform to broadly ellipsoid-oblong or subglobose, up to 50 x 35mm; skin yellow, around tomentose; flesh sweet. (- Webb et.al., 1988)

SIMILAR TAXA

Tree up to 8m high, leaves near branch tips. stout leaes, oval and up to 400 mm long, crinkled and dark, glossy green above with a thin grey to brown mat of soft hairs below. Flowers April-August-November. Edible fruits 50x 35 mm, hairy, yellow, drop-oval shaped, October-December.

FLOWERING

April, May June, July, August, September, October, November.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

October-December.

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Loquat is known to be eaten by pigeons and may be spread into light forest by this vector.



Eriobotrya japonica. Photographer: Richard Hursthouse, Licence: CC BY.



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YEAR NATURALISED

1982

ORIGIN

China, Japan

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rhaphiolepis-bibas/>