



*Polyscias elegans* — family: ARALIACEAE

## CELERYWOOD —SILVER BASSWOOD

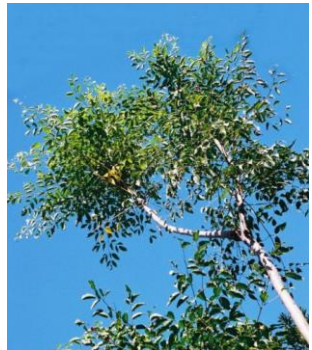
Small rainforest tree to 15 metres

Tiny purple flowers in large terminal panicles Feb to March

Fruit a dark purple flattened berry attracts birds

**Cultivation:** Fast growing in sun or shade.

The range of this graceful tree is from NSW to Qld where it is found in subtropical and dry rainforests, commonly in disturbed areas. When cut, the bark both tastes and smells like celery. It is an elegant tree, fast growing, but not dominating. Its long leaves are divided into small shiny leaflets



bunched at the ends of the branches, rather like a palm. The mature seeds attract birds in autumn and winter. Celerywood is happy in sun or shade but has a preference for fertile soil and plenty of water. However, it will settle for a lot less and still look fine.



The fruit, which ripens from March to June, is an important food source for many rainforest birds while the leaves attract the caterpillar of the Dark Pencilled-blue Butterfly.