

**Profile: Coolamon /
durobby / watermelon tree,
*Syzygium moorei***



This wonder commemorates Sydney's great horticulturist, Scot Charles Moore, who was director of the Sydney Botanic Garden from 1848-96 and a keen collector in NSW and Southern and Central Queensland rainforests and South-Sea Islands. The type specimen was collected by Moore.

Trees can reach 18m tall and 12m wide. Two near Farm Cove in Sydney's Botanic Garden are about 15 x 10m. Another near *Broughton Hall* in *Callan Park / Rozelle* (former Psychiatric) *Hospital* in Sydney's inner west is smaller, some 10 x 8m. Both this year are heaving in flower and birds.



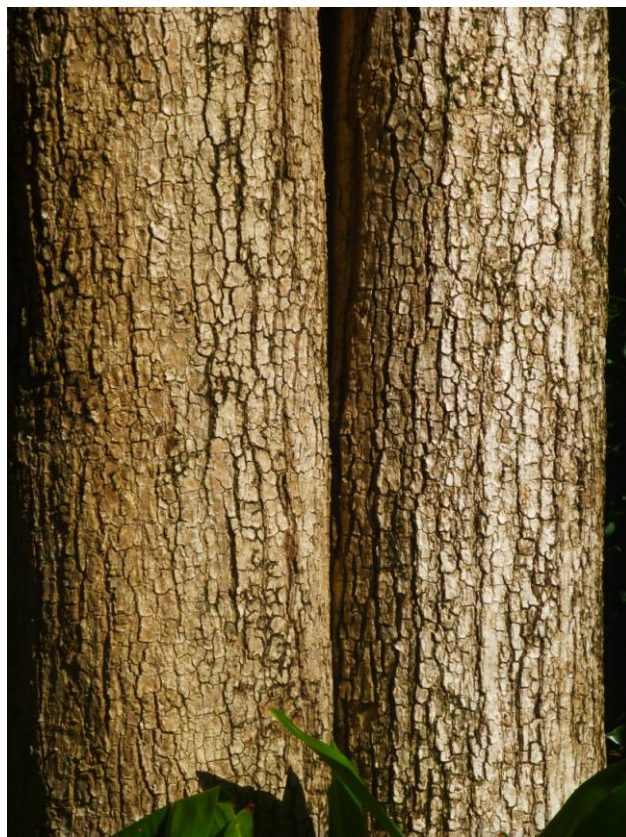
Above) dramatic cauliflory, *Broughton Hall* grounds

What is most interesting to me is its cauliflory – it blooms and fruits straight out of the trunk and branches, a common thing in tropical and sub-tropical rainforest trees. The flowers can form fuzzy velvety masses of bright rose pink: most striking. Their honey count must be high as trees team with parrots and honey-eaters feasting, singing and generally celebrating!

Native to the border ranges of NE NSW north of the Richmond River and SE Qld. It prefers riverine and gully sub-tropical rainforests at low altitudes. Due to land clearing it is now rare.



Above) Large coolamon, *Sydney Botanic Garden*

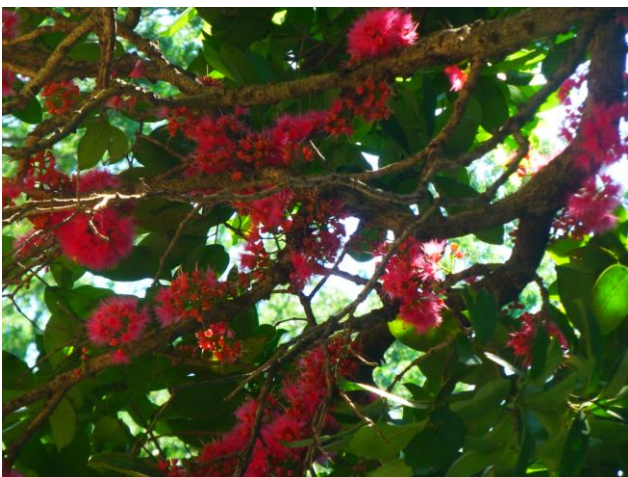


Above) twin trunked durobby bark, *Broughton Hall*



Above) leathery leaves up to 10cm long

Melbourne Botanic Garden also has a large one suggesting it will cope that far south. Doubtless that one is due to William Guilfoyle's directorship and fascination with rainforest trees.



Another I've seen in the garden of *Overthorpe*, Double Bay – which took over the experimental garden of Sir John Hay, NSW politician, grazier and collector. This garden has several baby coolamons, among its many rainforest riches.



Moore could have been the source: but as easily could have been nurserymen Michael and son William Guilfoyle, whose *Exotic Nursery* was down the road, selling rarities. It prefers a sheltered position in rich, well-drained soil. In time it gets big, but growth does not seem fast. 10m x 6m in 15-20 years would seem reasonable and 20 x 10m in 40-50 years.

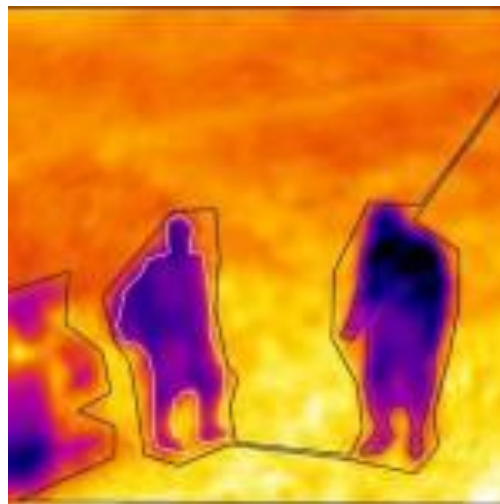
<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/Visit/What-s-blooming>

Stuart Read

Romanian Ancient & Special Trees – check this!

A website showcasing 1414 ancient and special trees across Romania, a country we hear so little about, is interesting. Dominated by pedunculate and sessile oaks, there are also ash, lime, wild cherry, black and silver poplar, rowan or service trees, black pines, hornbeam and European beech and horse and sweet chestnuts. Enjoy - <http://arboriremarcabili.ro/en/>

Trees cool towns down in summer



Interesting web poster (thanks to Derek McIntosh!) pointing out how trees affect local climate and may work as a perfect air-conditioning system driven by solar energy and water – see <http://europeanwater.org/european-water-resources/reports-publications/638-how-trees-cool-down-towns-in-summer>