

## *Cinnamomum camphora*

### **Common name:**

Camphor laurel

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

High at all stages.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Not known to be toxic.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Not known to be toxic, only to humans.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Essential oils, containing camphor, dipentene, cineol, terpineol, and other unknown substances.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and Symptoms;*

. In humans, confusion, delirium, death from respiratory failure, probably from the berries.  
Allergenic skin reactions.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

. Berries contain saffrole, which can make birds sterile.  
. Roots are toxic to some native animals.  
. Oils may pollute water, killing fish.

#### *Treatment;*

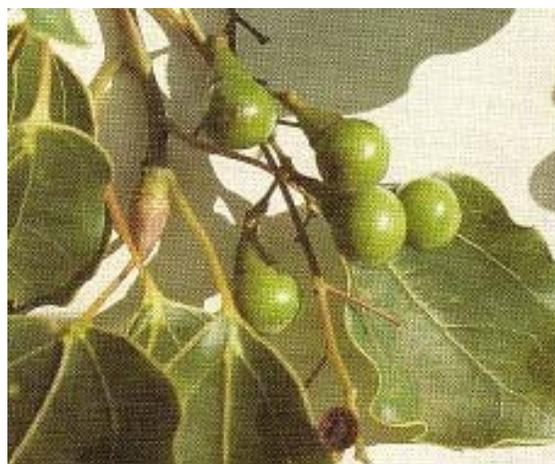
. In humans, induce vomiting, drink lots of water,  
. See Doctor.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

. Treat with herbicides in autumn.  
. Lop tree, and treat the stump.  
. Basal bark treatment for trees up to 10cms diameter  
. Spray seedlings and small trees, try Grazon®, Garlon 480®, or Roundup®.  
. Goats will eat suckers and shoots, and ringbark trees, and any regrowth.  
. Declared “Noxious” in NSW.

### **Comments:**

. An evergreen tree, with a rough bark, and vertical cracks, growing up to twelve metres.  
. Leaves are glossy, olive green, alternate and smooth, pinkish when young. Damaged parts have a distinctive camphor odour when crushed.  
. Flowers are small, white and of one sex, fragrant, and blooming in October.  
. Berries ripen, autumn to winter, and are globular and black.  
. This tree was originally planted for shade and shelter. Now it has become invasive and spreads by seed and suckers.  
. It is very long lived, and tends to form communities. Seedlings do not grow quickly until the root system becomes established, so they can be easily pulled.  
. A troublesome weed in pastures and bush of coastal NSW.  
. Extracts have been used as a brain stimulant for epilepsy, and other mental disorders,



Picture: *Cinnamomum camphora* Adex 643

### **Further Reading:**

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. Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database 1997  
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