

## **Angophora floribunda (Rough-barked Apple)**

Anyone making a round trip of the drive from the Sunshine Coast to the Bunya Mountains will more than likely pass through the village of Maidenwell, either approaching the Bunyas from the east via Kilcoy and Yarraman or returning to the coast that way after climbing the range from Kingaroy to the north. Only 2 km. from Maidenwell is a place of interest to lovers of the Australian bush: Coomba Falls. Linda and I were there in late August after a dry period and no water was running over the falls into the large waterhole, but it was full. However, it has been known to dry out completely during droughts.



The walking track in from the carpark has recently been upgraded to easily negotiated steps connected by elevated platforms. These lead down through an impressive grove of grass trees in a rocky gully and pass close to a mature Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*).







Taking centre stage on the grassy flat beside the pool is a beautiful specimen of ***Angophora floribunda*** or Rough-barked Apple, recognisable by the contorted limbs and rough, fibrous bark. The first observed ***Angophora***, ***A. hispida***, was thought to resemble an apple tree, hence the common name.





This is not a tree we see growing on the coast where the rainfall is relatively high but members of the genus do occur here: ***A. leiocarpa*** (Smooth-barked Apple) and ***A. woodsiana*** (Smudgee). All ***Angophoras*** are distinguishable from ***Eucalypts*** and ***Corymbias*** in having opposite leaves, no opercula or cap on the flower bud and woody fruits with longitudinal ribs terminating in small teeth.



A distinctive feature of ***Angophora floribunda*** is the contrast between adult leaves (below, left) which are lanceolate with a short petiole, and immature ones (below, right): ovate, sessile (i.e. having no petiole) with a cordate base clasping the stem.



You don't have to venture far from the coast, in this case about 120 km. as the crow flies, to experience quite different vegetation types. Still east of the Great Dividing Range, the area appears to lie in a rain shadow between the Conondale Range and the Bunya Mountains, and species have evolved to cope with the lower rainfall. It's well worth taking a look if you get the chance.