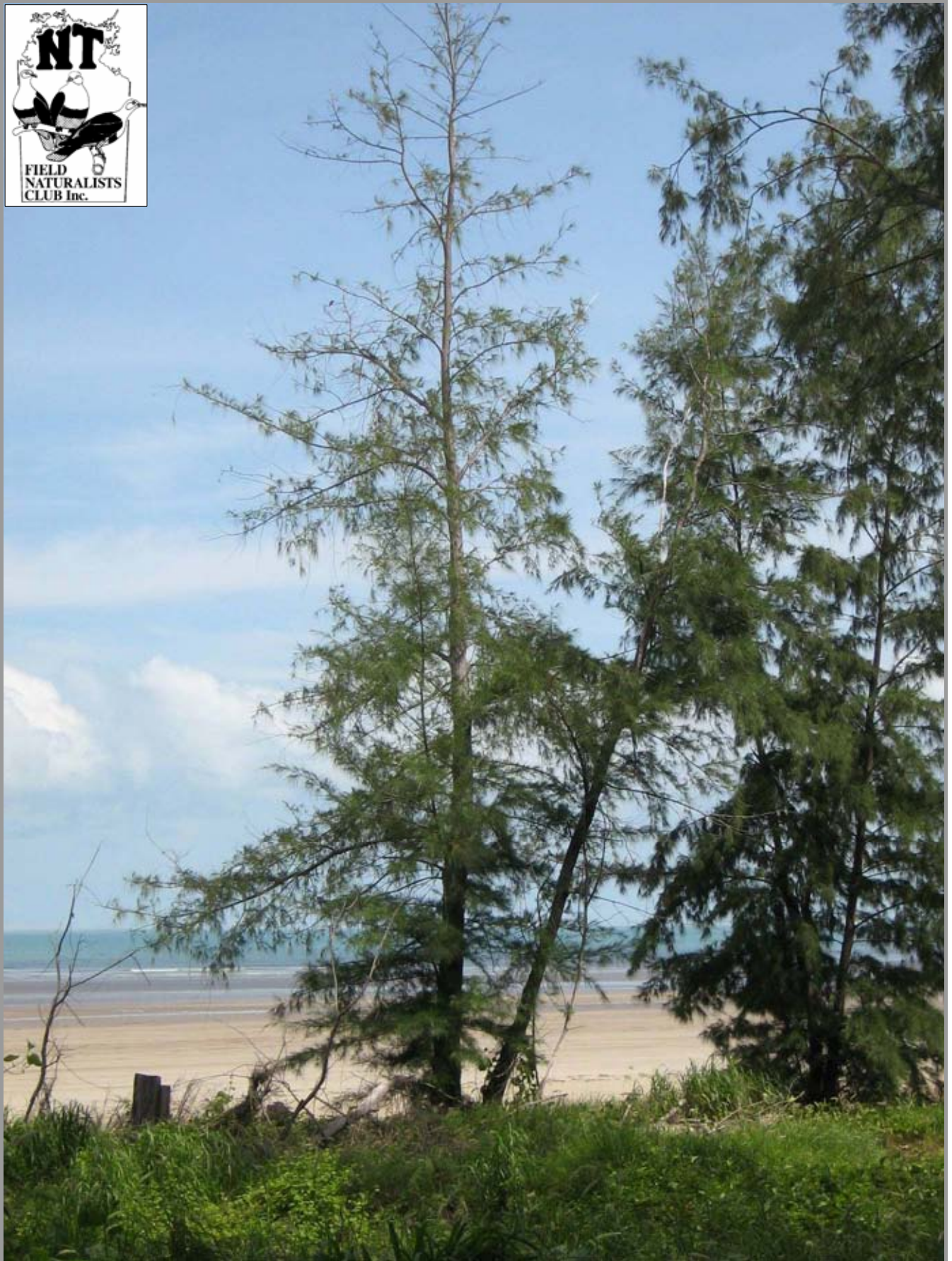
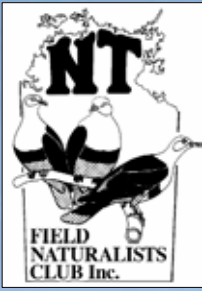




Some Plants in Casuarina Coastal Reserve

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Introduction

Casuarina Coastal Reserve is the most frequently visited protected area in the Northern Territory. With over 1,000,000 visitors a year, it is more popular than either Kakadu National Park or Uluru National Park. Most people using this reserve are local Darwin residents and/or Larrakia traditional owners. It is place where people relax, fish, exercise and socialise. Most visitors are unaware of the wealth of plants in the park, or know their names. Many of the plants are not difficult to identify, having distinctive features, such as unusual leaves or leaflets, flowers and fruits. Knowledge of a few key features can really help you to get to know the local plants.

This guide is designed to allow people to familiarise themselves with some of the more common and distinctive plants of Casuarina Coastal Reserve. Accurate locations are given for where examples of each species can be found. A description of features needed to identify each species is given, with emphasis on the shape and arrangement of the leaves, along with photographs of distinguishing features. The references at the bottom of this page will help you to identify plants not covered in this guide.

Plants can also be sent to the Darwin Herbarium for identification. Details on how to prepare plant specimens for identification, and where to send them can be found on the Department of Natural Resources, Environment & the Arts website (NRETA; www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/plants/identification.html), as well as how to apply for permits to collect plant specimens (www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/permits).

Visiting Casuarina Coastal Reserve

Casuarina Coastal Reserve is on the traditional land of the Larrakia people. Cultural protocols for visiting Larrakia country can be found on the Larrakia Nation website (www.larrakia.com). Information on the natural values of Casuarina Coastal Reserve can be found at the NRETA website (www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/find/casuarina.html).

Water, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent are all recommended when exploring Casuarina Coastal Reserve.

Finding out more about Darwin's native plants and animals

Northern Territory Field Naturalists Club (www.geocities.com/ntfieldnaturalists) is interested in the plants, animals and environments of the Top End of the Northern Territory. The club has monthly talks and field trips, and produces a monthly newsletter and a scientific journal.

Top End Native Plant Society is interested in the plants of the Top End of the Northern Territory (tenpsnt.tripod.com). The club and has monthly talks and field trips, and produces a monthly newsletter.

Detailed information about Northern Territory plants and animals can be found on the NRETA website (www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife).

Helping to conserve Darwin's environment

Landcare groups are helping to restore some of the degraded environments in The Casuarina Coastal Reserve and other environments around Darwin. Call the Darwin Urban Landcare Extension Officer on 8999 4450 for information on local groups.

The Environment Centre of the Northern Territory (www.ecnt.org.au) is the peak conservation organisation concerned with development issues protection of Darwin's parks and reserves.

Useful References

Booth, R., Harwood, R.K. & Mangion, C.P. *Field Key for the Monsoon Rainforest Flora of the Darwin Region*. Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, Darwin.
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www.weedinfo.com.au/bk_natpltn.html

Dunlop, C.R., Leach, G.J., Cowie, I.D (1995) *Flora of the Darwin Region Volume 2*. Northern Territory Bulletin No. 20. Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, Darwin.

Wightman, G (2006) *Mangrove Plant Identikit for north Australia's Top End*. Parks and Wildlife Service, NT Government and Greening Australia NT Inc.



Morinda citrifolia (Rotten Cheese Fruit) 12° 21' 54" S 130° 51' 35" E Dripstone Cliffs Lookout

- Pyramid-shaped tree with deep green, opposite, pointed leaves. Often a small straggly tree.
- Distinctive pock-marked, smelly fruit.



Pandanus spiralis (Screw Palm) Scattered throughout reserve. Pictured plant is 12° 21' 03" S 130° 52' 48" E On limited access track Just up-hill of 2.8 km to Lee Point sign

- A palm-like plant with bunches of long spiky leaves.



Corymbia bella (Ghost Gum)
(formerly *Eucalyptus papuana*)

12° 21' 17" S 130° 52' 21" E Eastern side of car park

- Smooth white trunk, sometimes with a flaky brown stocking. Wavy, pendulous leaves.
- Honeyeaters feed on blossoms & lerp from leaves.



Nauclea orientalis (Leichhardt Tree)

12° 21' 16" S 130° 52' 21" E Northern side of car park

- A dark tree with horizontal branches and large, opposite leaves, and huge stipules protecting new growth emerging on the tips of branches.



Calophyllum inophyllum (Beauty Leaf)

12° 21' 14" S, 130° 52' 23" E Overhanging track, just past shower on right.

- Stiff dark green leaves, with closely-spaced parallel veins. Showy, fragrant flowers. Round woody poisonous fruit.



Ficus virens (Banyan Fig) 12° 21' 13" S, 130° 52' 23" E

On the right of the track, just past *Calophyllum*

- Spreading, often multi-trunked tree with roots descending from branches. Small round figs.
- Figs eaten by fruit doves and white-eyes



Tamarindus indica (Tamarind)

12° 21' 16" S, 130° 52' 21" E On right of track, immediately past Banyan. (Introduced by Macassans)

- Shady tree with noticeably light green foliage. Thorny branchlets carry crowded pinnate (compound) leaves with numerous, opposite leaflets.



Trema tomentosa (Poison Peach)

12° 21' 13" S 130° 52' 24" On right of track, opposite revegetation plot

- Layered, arrow-shaped foliage. Appearing soft, the hairy leaves are coarse to touch. Small, hard, black fruit clustered along stems.



***Sterculia quadrifida* (Peanut Tree)**

On right of track, opposite revegetation plot 12° 21' 12"S, 130° 52' 24" E Pictured plant is at Lee Point Picnic ground between 2nd & 3rd group of parking bays on left 12° 19' 55" S, 130° 53' 40" E

- Tree with dark green, heart-shaped leaf & red fruits with shiny black seeds.



***Millettia pinnata* (Indian Beech)
(formerly *Pongamia pinnata*)**

12° 21' 11" S, 130° 52' 26" E Opposite north end of revegetation plot.

- Small tree with spreading crown. Drooping compound leaves with four to six, opposite, shiny leaflets.
- Host tree for butterflies



***Melaleuca leucadendra* (Pink or Weeping Paperbark)**

12° 21' 9" S, 130° 52' 28" E Five metres past Casuarina stump on right of track

- New leaves hairless. Cream bottlebrush flowers smell of butterscotch
- Heavy nectar production fed on by honeyeaters, bees and fruit-bats



***Acacia auriculiformis* (Northern Black Wattle or Ear-pod Wattle)** 12° 21' 8" S 130° 52' 29" E Opposite path to Nudist Beach

- Spreading tree with tightly-grooved dark bark, often lichen-covered. Green leaf-like phyllodes with three main veins, running the length of the phyllode, mostly separate from each other. Vibrant yellow flower spikes turn to coiled pods.



Hibiscus tiliaceus (Beach Hibiscus)

12° 21' 5" S, 130° 52' 33" E – On left of track just before the Cluster Fig.

- Scruffy tree with heart-shaped leaves. Yellow lantern flowers with crimson centres, turn to dull red before they fall from tree. Star-shaped crisp seed pods. Large stipules enclose new growth.



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Ficus racemosa (Cluster Fig)

12° 21' 4" S, 130° 52' 31" E Just past shower on left of track

- White milky sap (latex) in stems. Trunk often buttressed.
- Large clusters of fruit on trunk and branches taken by doves, figbirds, white-eyes



Casuarina equisetifolia (Coastal Sheoak)

12° 21' 2" S 130° 52' 33" Between foreshore & track

- Weeping, needle-like branchlets with reduced tooth-like leaves. Small pale cone-like fruit.
- Seeds eaten by Black-Cockatoos and other parrots, often leaving a carpet of cones below tree.



Melaleuca dealbata (Paperbark)

12° 21' 5" S, 130° 52' 32" E Open area opposite Cluster fig

- Tree with grey-green foliage. New growth has bluish flush and fine hairs. Cream, bottle-brush flowers.



Alstonia scholaris (Cheesewood, Milky Pine)

12° 21' 03" S, 130° 52' 34" E Planted in open area on right of track. (Native to Qld, but not native to NT)

- Dark green leaves arranged in clusters around stem, so can appear to be compound. Broken stems & leaves exude milky sap.



Eucalyptus camaldulensis (River Red Gum)

12° 21' 01" S, 130° 52' 37" E On Left of track just before side-track to mangroves, probably planted.

- Smooth white or grey bark, pendulous leaves (not wavy). Small pointed capsules if not present on tree, are often found in the leaf litter below.



Mallotus nesophilus

12° 21' 00" S, 130° 52' 38" E On right of track, just past fork. Opposite Nudist beach sign.

- Small, kite-shaped leaves, with yellow glands on under side (visible under hand-lens). Heavy crop of yellow flowers followed by furry fruit



***Stephania japonica* (Tape Vine)**

12° 21' 00" S, 130° 52' 38" E On right of track, just past fork. Opposite Nudist beach sign.

- Vine with leaf stalk arising from near the leaf centre (peltate). Oval, red fruit in grape-like clusters.



***Adenia heterophylla* (Lacewing Vine)**

12° 21' 00" S, 130° 52' 38" E On right of track, just past fork. Opposite Nudist beach sign

- Vine with large heart-shaped leaves. Twin glands at junction between leaf and leaf stalk



***Cayratia* species (Native Grape)**

12° 21' 00" S, 130° 52' 38" E On right of track, just past fork. Opposite Nudist beach sign.

- Vine with tendrils arising opposite leaf-bases. Compound leaves with three leaflets (trifoliate). Small clusters of black, bitter fruit.



Tinospora smilacina (Snake Vine)

12° 21' 00" S, 130° 52' 38" E On right of track, just past fork. Opposite Nudist beach sign.

- Heart-shaped leaves on climber that is woody when older. Yellow patch at junction between leaf stalk and leaf veins



Glochidion xerocarpum (Little Cheeses)

12° 21' 00" S, 130° 52' 38" E On right of track, just past fork. Opposite Nudist beach sign.

- Shrub to small tree. Leaves arranged orderly along long drooping branches. Swollen leaf stalk. White to yellow fruit splits into segments revealing red seeds.



Micromelum minutum (Lime Berry)

12° 21' 00" S, 130° 52' 38" E - On right of track, just past fork. Opposite Nudist beach sign.

- Compound leaves with alternate leaflets. Prominent orange to red fruit attracts numerous fruit-eating birds.
- Host plant for butterflies.



Flueggea virosa (White Grape or Native Currant)
 12° 21' 00" S, 130° 52' 38" E - On right of track, just past fork, opposite Nudist Beach sign.
 • Currant-sized edible white fruit clustered along stems
 • Fruit eaten by white-eyes and other fruit-eaters.



Tacca leontopetaloides (Arrowroot) 12° 21' 00" S, 130° 52' 38" E On right of track, just past fork, opposite Nudist Beach sign. Visible only in wet season.
 • Large perennial herbaceous plant that dies back to underground tuber in the dry season. Large compound leaves.



Canarium australicum
 12° 21' 00" S, 130° 52' 38" E - On right of track past fork - at start of scrub. Picture plant is on east side of Lee Point Picnic ground 12° 19' 53" S, 130° 53' 46" E
 • Tall tree. Compound leaves with 4-10 pairs of opposite leaflets, with finely-toothed margins.



Bombax ceiba (Kapok Tree)
 12° 21' 00" S, 130° 52' 39" E - On right of track 5 m from start of scrub. Picture plant is in Arnheimland
 • Thorny trunk & branches; large red flowers; woody capsules with woolly "kapok". Compound (palmate) leaf.