

Eucryphiaceae

The family Eucryphiaceae has been split off from a larger family, Cunoniaceae, and has one genus, Eucryphia with seven species, five of which are Australian and two are South American (Chile and Argentina). Tasmania has two species, Eucryphia lucida Leatherwood and Eucryphia milliganii.

Eucryphia lucida, Leatherwood, a tall, up to 12m, rain forest species which is famous for its strong flavoured honey, and Eucryphia milliganii, Dwarf Leatherwood, a bush or small tree to 3m with smaller leaves and flowers.

It is a montane species. Both Tasmanian species have four rounded petals, usually white on E. lucida but occasionally pink; always white on E. milliganii. The two South American species, Eucryphia cordifolia, Ulmo, and Eucryphia glutinosa, Nirrhe, are both large trees with four petalled, fragrant white flowers. E. cordifolia also produces flavoursome honey and it has been reported that E. lucida has been hybridised with E. cordifolia to produce greater quantities of honey. E. glutinosa is a deciduous tree with its glossy dark green leaves turning red in autumn. It is endemic to Chile, whereas E. cordifolia is found along the Andes Range in Chile and Argentina up to 700m asl. Eucryphia lucida and Eucryphia cordifolia are both threatened by logging and habitat loss.

(References include Tasmania's natural Flora, Wikipedia and other minor sources)