

Fagaceae

The Tasmanian Herbarium classifies the genus *Nothofagus* in the Fagaceae family and both Tasmanian species, *Nothofagus cunninghamii* and *Nothofagus gunnii* are classified accordingly. However, recently some botanists have reclassified all the world's 43 *Nothofagus* species of Southern beeches into the family **Nothofagaceae with four subgenera: *Brassospora* including species from New Guinea and New Caledonia, plus a number of now extinct Tasmanian and a New Zealand species; *Fuscospora* including**

Nothofagus alessandri from Chile, *Nothofagus gunnii* from Tasmania and three species from New Zealand plus another extinct Tasmanian species; *Lophozonia* including *Nothofagus alpina*, *N. glauca*, *N. macrocarpa* and *N. obliqua* from Chile and Argentina, *Nothofagus cunninghamii* from Tasmania and Victoria, *Nothofagus moorei* from NSW and Qld, and *Nothofagus menziesii* from New Zealand, plus more extinct Australian and NZ species; and, subgenera *Nothofagus* including the remaining species from Argentina and Chile, plus two more extinct Tasmanian species. One more extinct species either 3 or 15 million years old has been identified from Antarctica. This reclassification has not been accepted outside New Zealand. While *Nothofagus cunninghamii* is a large, evergreen tree with bronze/red new leaves, up to 40 – 50m high in rainforest, *N. gunnii* is a deciduous, woody, montane shrub or small tree, 0.2 -4m high. In Autumn, many Tasmania's do a pilgrimage to the montane areas of the state to see the *N. gunnii* foliage changing colour from brilliant green to yellows, oranges and sometime bright red. *N. gunnii* is Tasmania's only deciduous tree. The wood of *N. cunninghamii*, like many *Nothofagus* species wood makes beautiful timber and many pieces of furniture feature solid or veneer parts. Another Gondwanan feature of the *Nothofagus* species is the *Cyttaria* fungus that grow on the branches of some *Nothofagus* trees. *Cyttaria darwinii* grows on *N. antarctica* and *N. pumilio*, and occasionally on *N. betuloides* and *N. dombeyi* in Argentina, South America. *Cyttaria gunnii*, Myrtle orange, grows only on *N. cunninghamii* in Tasmania and Victoria, and *Cyttaria septentrionalis* grows on *N. moorei* in NSW and Qld. *Cyttaria purdiei* grows only on *N. menziesii* in New Zealand.

(References include the *Nothofagus* and *Cyttaria* articles in Wikipedia, Tasmania's Natural Flora, and other minor sources)