Miconia trees
(Miconia calvescens)

A tree native to tropical rainforests in Central and South America. Introduced as an ornamental species in French Polynesia in 1937 and New Caledonia in the 1970s.

Description
- The trunk is 4 to 12 metres tall and can reach 16 m in some cases
- Large, oval leaves, 20 to 80 cm long and 8 to 30 cm wide, smooth, dark green on the upper side, purple on the under side, acuminate tip, smooth or slightly indented edges, with three, clearly marked longitudinal veins
- The inflorescences are made up of panicles 20 to 35 cm long, sessile flowers in groups of five, with bracts 2 to 3 mm long, smooth, white petals
- Round fruit, purple to black at maturity, 3.5 to 4.5 mm in diameter, seeds oval to pyramidal in shape and 0.5 mm long

Ecology and reproduction
- May be found in wet, tropical forests, from sea level to 1 400 metres altitude in Tahiti
- The trees form dense, single-species thickets
- Rapid growth (up to 1.5 m per year), capable of reproduction after 4 to 5 years, capable of vegetative multiplication
- Seeds are dispersed by birds (ornithochory), on slopes (barochory) and by water (hydrochory). They germinate immediately on being exposed to light or following a dormant period in soil

Documentation

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