

# Paperbark

*Melaleuca quinquenervia*



## Adaptation to environment

- Oil in leaves discourages leaf feeders; makes fires burn quickly but then die down before causing serious damage
- After fire, quickly regrows new shoots from 'epicormic buds' under bark
- Thick papery bark protects from fire
- Can survive with roots under water, breathing through exposed roots & bark when inundated.

## Feeding relationships

Where do I live?



Swamp



Mixed Woodland

### What eats me?

- Lorikeets, honeyeaters, flying foxes, possums, butterflies, bees, wasps feed on nectar & pollen
- Squirrel gliders eat flowers & sap from trunks after making cuts in its bark.

- Small tree 12-14 m
- Cream bottlebrush flowers
- Common in swamps & damp sandy areas
- White papery bark
- Aboriginal people used bark for shelters, containers, small canoes, fire-lighting
- Tee-tree oil still used as antiseptic.