



KARAKA

(*Corynocarpus laevigatus*)

Canopy
15+m



Description:

- A handsome tree originating in the northern coastal and lowland forests. It does occur further south but this is probably due to the seed, being an important human food source, has been carried about
- Frost tender, the tree has a clean trunk and a rounded canopy
- The leaves, arranged alternately, are dark green, smooth edged and leathery

Fruit & Flowers:

- Appearing in late winter and spring the flowers are very small and a green / white colour
- The fruit are plum like. Initially a glossy green the fruit turn orange in the autumn
- Karaka seed germinates readily and it is common to see masses of seedlings growing in the shade of the canopy

Pests & Diseases:

- Karaka do not have any significant pests and diseases

Uses:

- The fruit were an important food. The flesh could be eaten raw, while the poisonous kernels needed to be cooked and washed before eating. Like kumara they could be stored