

Carnaby's Cockatoos feeding on Liquidamber- Flocks of Carnaby's Cockatoos were observed feeding on the fruits of ornamental Liquidamber trees (*Liquidamber*: Hamamelidaceae) growing in the grounds of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Kensington. Up to 20 birds per tree were observed feeding on the fruits for a two week period which extended from 15 – 30 March 1999. This appears to be a new food source for Carnaby's Cockatoo.

The fruits of Liquidamber are globular and spiny (from the persistent styles), the capsules are dehiscent and each contains one or two winged seeds.

Birds would alight in the tree and move out towards the end of a branch then

nip it off. The bird would hold the branch in its right foot and remove one of the fruits with its beak. It would drop the branchlet (often containing additional fruits – see Figure 1) to the ground and then transfer the fruit to its left foot where it would split the capsules and remove the seeds. There was considerable debris of discarded branchlets and fruit immediately under the trees.

Freshly fallen fruit were collected from the ground for examination and to be photographed (Figure 2). The seeds were mature in all fruit examined (Figure 3).

Freshly fallen fruit were collected and voucher material has been lodged with the Western Australian Museum.



Figure 1 Branchlet of Liquidamber with fruit attached (scale bar equals 1 cm).

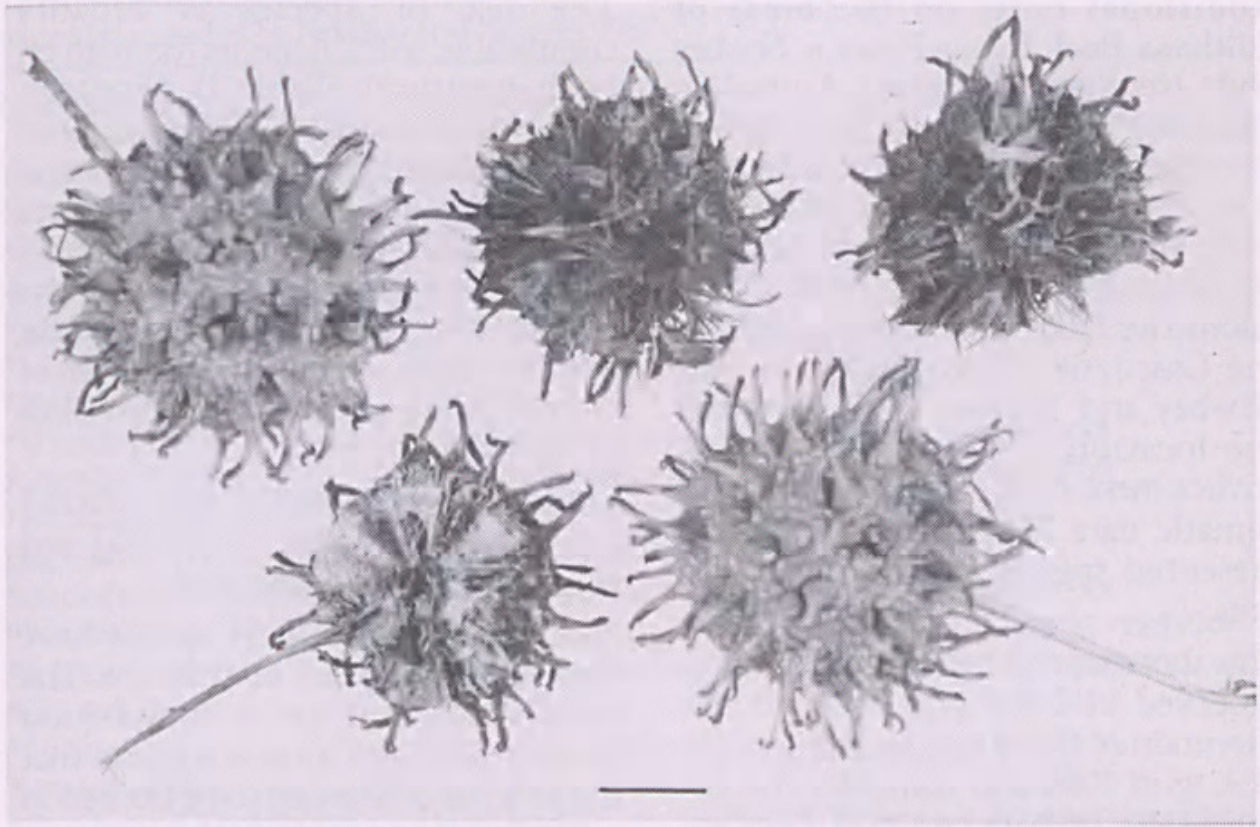


Figure 2 Fruit of Liquidamber harvested by Carnaby's Cockatoos (scale bar equals 1 cm).

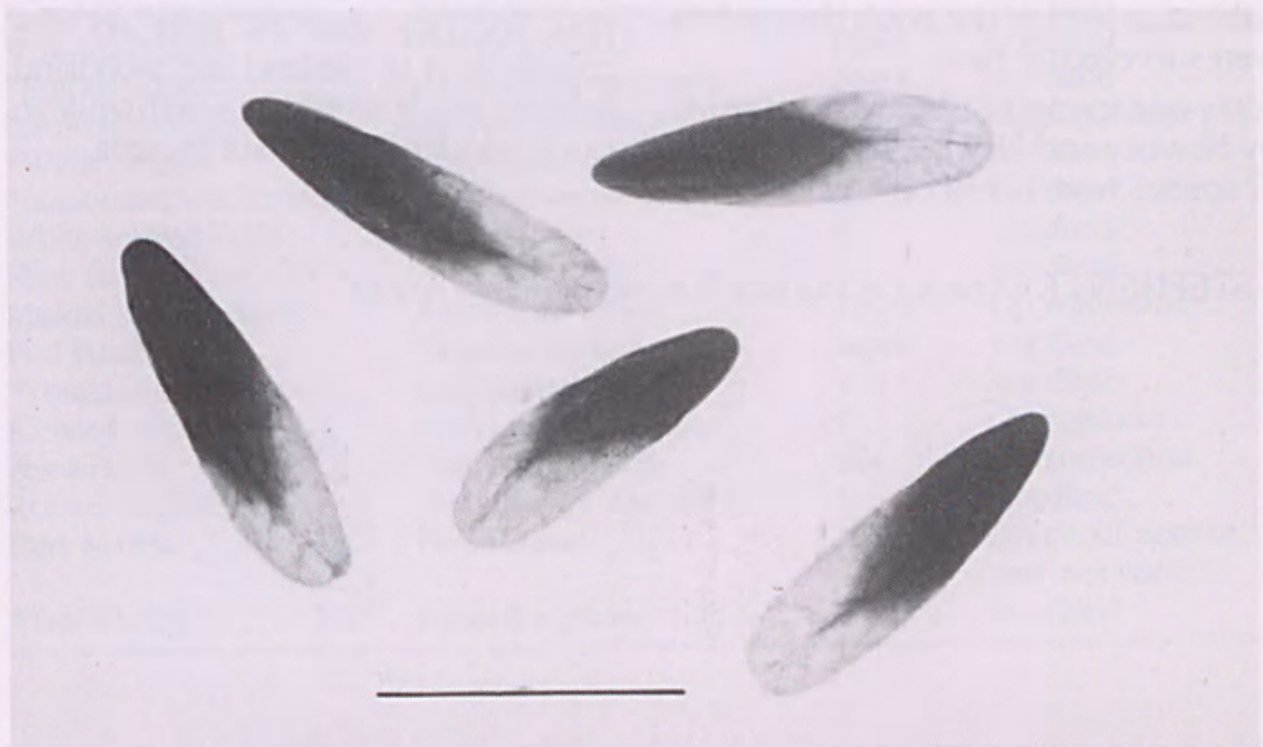


Figure 3 Seeds of Liquidamber (scale bar equals 1 cm).

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