

Title Sapindaceae production and research in Australia
Author Y. Diczbalis, I. Groves, B. Nicholls and K. Lake
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Abstract

Australia has an abundance of native Sapindaceae, with a few species that are considered to have an edible aril. A number of these have minor “bush food” status but have limited commercial potential. Longan, Lychee and Rambutan were introduced into Australia from the mid 1800’s. Serious commercialisation of these crops began from the 1970’s then farmers in sub tropical and tropical regions of Australia were seeking new commercial horticultural opportunities. Currently the value of these industries is in the vicinity of \$35M with lychee the predominate crop followed by longan and litchi respectively. Despite Australia being a minor producer on the world scale it has contributed significantly to the scientific and production developments through the combined efforts of researchers and industry protagonists. This paper details the development and status of the commercial Sapindaceae in Australia and highlights production and research activities.