

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, near Newcastle



Flowering stems.

Photographer Don Wood, near Central Tilba



Fruit, leaves, and stem. Photographer Jackie Miles, Milton

Common name

Red ash, Soapbush

Family

Rhamnaceae

Where found

Rainforest margins, disturbed **rainforest**, remnant **forest** on roadsides, open forest, **shrubland**, sheltered gullies, and steep slopes. Coast and ranges north of Bermagui.

Notes

Tree to 35 m tall. Bark becoming **tessellate** and deeply fissured in older trees. Stems grey to golden-brown hairy. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 3–14 cm long, 18–60 mm wide, dark green, glossy above, densely white-hairy below with the **veins** raised and brownish green. Flowers white or cream to greenish, with 5 **petals** each 1–2 mm long, and 5 coloured **sepals**, the sepals each 1–2 mm long, more obvious than the narrow petals. Flowers in branched clusters. Flowers Summer to Autumn. Fruit dry, at first semi-fleshy, dull black, the black outer layer drying out to reveal a reddish **powdery** layer. Seeds brown, covered with an orange-reddish membranous **aril**.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Alphitonia~excelsa> (accessed 2 January, 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

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