

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers and leaves (subsp. *spinosa*). Australian Plant Image Index, photographer R Green, unknown place



Flowering stem and seed cases (subsp. *spinosa*). Photographer Don Wood, Nadgee State Forest south of Eden



Flowering stems (subsp. *lasiophylla*). Photographer Don Wood, Badja State Forest, NE of Cooma



Shrub. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Braidwood to Cooma

## Common name

Blackthorn, Boxthorn, Sweet Bursaria, Australian Blackthorn, Native Blackthorn

## Family

Pittosporaceae

## Where found

Forest, **woodland**, shrubland, grassy areas, disturbed areas, and rocky sites. Only subsp. *spinosa* grows in **rainforest**. Widespread.

subsp. *lasiophylla*: Widespread. Rare on the Western Slopes.

subsp. *spinosa*: Mostly coast and ranges. Occasionally elsewhere.

## Notes

Shrub or tree to 10 m high. Bark rough, fissured into flakes. Branches usually with spines 6-12 mm long, the younger braches ending in spines. Older growth with no spines. Young stems sometimes hairy with **simple** hairs, becoming hairless. Leaves clustered under the spines or **alternating** up the stems, 0.2–4.3 cm long, 2–18 mm wide, margins thick, slightly down-turned; tips rounded to slightly notched with a **mucro**; leaf surfaces often hairless or almost so, or lower surface hairy.. Flowers fragrant, with 5 white or cream **petals** each 2–8 mm long. Flowers in usually branched clusters about 3–25 cm long. Flowering: throughout the year, but chiefly in summer. Seed cases flattened, brown, **cordate**.

**subsp. *lasiophylla***: Multi-stemmed **shrub** usually less than 5 m high. Hairs moderately dense, **appressed** to the shoots, lower surface of the leaves, and the **ovary**, persisting with age. Leaves 0.2–3.5 cm long, 2–12 mm wide. Petals about 3-6 mm long.

Was ***Bursaria lasiophylla***.

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

**subsp. *spinosa***: **Erect** tree or shrub, 5–10 m high; hairs on new shoots and lower surface of leaves usually not persisting with age. Leaves 0.8–4.3 cm long, 3–18 mm wide. Petals 4–8 mm long.

PlantNET description of species and key to subspecies: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?>

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*This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:*



*Android edition*



*iOS edition*