

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering branches. Photographer Don Wood, north of Milton



Fruit and leaves. Photographer Don Wood, Carnarvon Station Bush Heritage Reserve via Augathella, Qld



Tree. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, near Cowra

## Common name

White cedar, Chinaberry tree

## Family

Meliaceae

## Where found

**Forest**, vine scrubs, regrowth, and moist gullies. Native on the coast and ranges north of Bega. Often planted elsewhere.

## Notes

**Deciduous** tree to 40 m tall. Fruit fleshy. Bark smooth, with prominent leaf scars and **lenticels**, becoming ridged and furrowed with age. Young stems hairy with unbranched and **stellate** hairs (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see), becoming hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, **compound**, 12-80 cm long, mostly with 6-14 **pinnae**, each with 3-9 leaflets 2-10 cm long, 10-30 mm wide, tips pointed, surfaces hairless or with scattered stellate hairs, margins **entire** to toothed. Male and bisexual flowers on the same plant. Flowers fragrant, white to pink, mauve, or bluish, usually with 5-6 **petals** each 6-12 mm long, in branched clusters 10-22 cm long. Fruit yellow to yellow-brown when ripe, poisonous to humans, but not to birds. Flowers Spring.

**Naturalised** in Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Melia-azedarach> (accessed 25 January, 2021)

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