Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



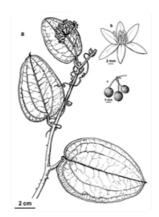
Flowering stem. Photographer Jackie Mles



Flowers, fruit, and leaves. Photographer Don Wood, Princes Highway west of Jervis Bay



Flow er buds and backs of leaves. Photographer lackie Miles



Line drawings. a. flowering branch; b. flower; c. fruit. A Barley, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Lawyer Vine, Wait-a-while, Barbwire Vine, Sweet Sarsaparilla, Smilax, Austral Sarsaparilla

Family

Smilacaceae

Where found

Forest, heath, rocky areas, and moist gullies. Coast, ranges, and tablelands.

Notes

Woody climber or creeper, twining and climbing by tendrils, stems to about 15 m long. Stems hairless, usually with prominent prickles. Fruit fleshy. Leaves alternating up the stems, mostly 5–15 cm long, 30–100 mm wide, leathery, with 5 longitudinal veins, surfaces green and hairless, lower surface paler, but not glaucous, tips pointed to rounded and notched; stalk twisted. Male and female flowers on different plants. Flowers white to cream or green, sometimes reddish, with 6 'petals', each 3–5 mm long. Flowers in few- to many-flowered clusters. Flowers all year, but chiefly spring–summer. Fruit shiny black, round, 5–10 mm in diameter.

PlantNET description: http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Smilax~australis (accessed 7 February, 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

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





