

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem Photographer Jackie Miles



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



Flower buds and backs of leaves. Photographer Jackie Miles



Line drawings. a. flowering branch; b. flower; c. fruit.  
A Barley, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021  
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## 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)

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