

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers and leaves. Photographer Don Wood, Booderee National Park, Jervis Bay Territory



Leafy stems with ripe fruit. Photographer Jackie Miles

## Common name

Sweet sarsaparilla

## Family

Smilacaceae

## Where found

**Forest, woodland**, and near streams. Coastal north from Eden. Ranges north from Ulladulla.

## Notes

Woody climber or creeper, twining and climbing by tendrils. Stems to about 5 m long, with no prickles, hairless. Fruit fleshy. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, mostly 4–10 cm long, 15–50 mm wide, with 3 longitudinal **veins**, upper surface green, lower surface **glaucous**, tips more or less pointed, stalk twisted. Male and female flowers on different plants. Flowers white to creamish, with 6 '**petals**' each 2–4 mm long. Flowers in few- to many-flowered clusters. Flowers late spring to summer. Fruit shiny black, round, 5–10 mm in diameter.

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

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