

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering branch. Photographer Don Wood, north of Batemans Bay



Ripe fruit and leaves. Photographer Jackie Miles



Stem and leaf bases. Photographer Jackie Miles



Shrub. Photographer Jackie Miles



Line drawings. f. flower; flowering branch. M.Mbir, National Herbarium of Victoria, ©2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

## Common name

Tobacco bush, Wild tobacco bush, Wild tobacco tree, Wild tobacco

## Family

Solanaceae

## Where found

**Rainforest** and wet **forest**, **woodland**, roadsides, and gullies and other moist sites. Coast and ranges. Albury district. Doubtfully **naturalised** in the ACT.

## Notes

**Introduced shrub** or small tree to 4 m high. Fruit fleshy. Stems green or grey-green, densely **stellate** hairy (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see), sometimes sticky, hairs loose and tufted on young growth. Older stems moderately to sparsely hairy, greyish-brown and somewhat woody. Leaves usually with a strong odour when rubbed or when wet, **alternating** up the stems, 7.5-40 cm long, 30-150 mm wide, upper surface green and sparsely hairy, lower surface densely grey stellate hairy, margins

**entire** to slightly wavy, tips gradually tapering to a point. One or two small stalkless leaves in the **axils** except on smaller twigs. Flowers violet, purple, blue, mauve, or whitish, 15–25 mm in diameter, star-shaped with 5 lobes, in 25–100 flowered clusters. Fruit dull yellow, globular, hairy, becoming hairless with age, 10–15 mm in diameter. Flowers autumn–spring.

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW.

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

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*Author: Betty Wood.*



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