

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Male flowers and leaves. Photographer Don Wood, Murrumbidgee River, ACT



Male flowers and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Female flowers and leaves. Photographer Don Wood, Murrumbidgee River, ACT

Common name

Eastern Bitter-bush, Mallee Bitter-bush

Family

Euphorbiaceae

Where found

Shrubland and along streams. Widespread, rarely coastal.

Notes

Shrub to 2 m high, **stellate** hairy (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see) or hairless. Leaf tips sharp or blunt. Leaf margins with sharp or blunt teeth, sometimes scalloped, rarely **entire**. Young stems whitish, green, or reddish. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, or occasionally alternating and opposite each other, 3–18 cm long, 20–130 mm wide, usually deeply 3-lobed, surfaces mostly hairy or sometimes hairless. Male and female flowers on different plants. Male flowers with 4–5 **sepals** 3–5 mm long; 0 **petals**. Female flowers with 3–8 sepals 2.5–12 mm long, in 2 **whorls**; 0 petals. Male **spikes** 5–34 cm long. Female spikes 1–7 cm long. Flowers mainly spring.

Rare Vic.

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Adriana~tomentosa> (accessed 2 January, 2021)

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