

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



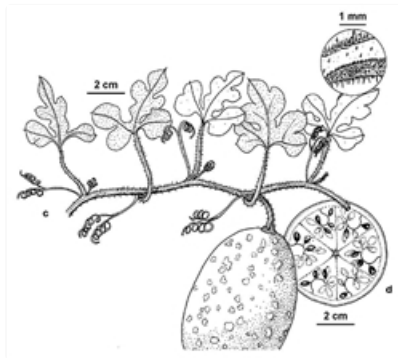
Flower and leaves. Photographer Don Wood, Scotia Sanctuary, western NSW



Melon. Photographer Jackie Miles, Yass



Ripe melons. Photographer Don Wood, Scotia Sanctuary, western NSW



Line drawings. c. fruiting stem; d. section through fruit. E.M. Vayfield, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board.

## Common name

Bitter melon, Wild melon, Camel melon, Pie melon

## Family

Cucurbitaceae

## Where found

Grassy areas, disturbed sites, and along streams. ACT and Albury. Occasionally elsewhere.

## Notes

**Introduced annual** herb or climber, **prostrate** or to 3 m tall. Stems hairy to rough. Leaves **alternating** along the stems, 2-20 cm long, 25-150 mm wide, 3-7 lobed, upper surface scarcely rough or becoming hairless, lower surface hairy with short hairs and rough, margins wavy, bases with **cordate** lobes, tips notched or with fine points. Male and female flowers on the same plant. Flowers yellow, with 5 **petals** each 10-15 mm long. Fruit green, mottled or striped with patches of paler green, or yellowish.

Was *Citrullus lanatus*.

Watermelon is a cultivated variant, but is not widely **naturalised**.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Citrullus-amarus> (accessed 26 April 2021)

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