

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers and leaves (*var. ferrugineum*). Photographer Jackie Miles.



Flowering branch (*var. ferrugineum*). Photographer Don Wood, near Culburra, Jervis Bay



Seed cases and leaves (*var. ferrugineum*). Photographer Jackie Miles.



Shrub (*var. ferrugineum*). Photographer Jackie Miles, Nadgigomar National Park north of Braidwood

Common name

Rusty petals, Rusty velvet bush

Family

Malvaceae

Where found

Forest, heath, and rocky areas. Mostly coast, ranges, and the eastern edge of the tablelands. (both subspecies).

Notes

Shrub to 1.2 m tall. Young branches covered with greyish-white or rusty **stellate** hairs (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see). Leaves 2-19 cm long, **alternating** up the stems, margins more or less **entire** or shallowly wavy, often slightly curved down, upper surface hairless to sparsely hairy, lower surface white to rusty-**tomentose**; **veins** prominent on both surfaces, **impressed** above, raised and rusty-coloured below, bases sometimes broadly **cordate**. Flowers cream to light green or brown inside, light green or brown outside, stellate hairy (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see) inside and outside, 4-10 mm long, with 5 '**petals**' joined at the base, in dense 5 to many-flowered clusters. Flowers Spring.

Family was Sterculiaceae.

var. ferrugineum: Most leaves less than 10 mm wide. Leaves 5-12 mm wide, the bases tapering to the stalk, square or lobed; margins entire to shallowly lobed or wavy.

Vulnerable Vic.

var. cordatum: Most leaves more than 10 mm wide. Leaves 8-40 mm wide, the bases cordate or lobed; margins mostly entire, rarely shallowly wavy.

Vulnerable Vic.

Plants collected in Victoria are somewhat **intermediate** between these two varieties (accessed 26 April 2021)..

PlantNET description of species and key to varieties: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Lasiopetalum~ferrugineum> (accessed 26 April 2021)

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