

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stems (subsp. *cismontanum*). Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Flowering branches with nuts (subsp. *polygalifolium*). Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Trunks (subsp. *polygalifolium*). Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT

## Common name

Yellow tea-tree, Tanton

## Family

Myrtaceae

## Where found

**Forest, woodland, heath**, and along streams.

subsp. *cismontanum* Mainly coastal, north of Marulan.

subsp. *polygalifolium* Coast and ranges, occasionally elsewhere.

## Notes

**Shrub** or tree. Bark rough. Stems hairy to hairless. Leaves aromatic when rubbed, **alternating** up the stems, 0.8-2 cm long, 2-3 mm wide, flat or with curved down margins, surfaces usually hairless or almost so, tips broad to narrow and pointed or blunt, often curved down with a soft or stiff blunt point, bases tapering; stalk more or less absent. Flowers about 10-12 mm in diameter, with 5 greenish to creamy white **petals**. Nuts 5-10 mm in diameter.

**subsp. cismontanum** Shrub to 4 m tall. Leaves usually 0.8-1 cm long (longer in the form near streams) and 2 mm wide, usually a characteristic dull grey-green, the lower side paler, tips usually rounded. Flowers about 10 mm in diameter, white. **Sepals** 1.5-2 mm long. Nut usually 5-7 mm in diameter. Main flowering period September-October.

**subsp. polygalifolium** Shrub or tree to 5 m tall. Leaves with a soft, occasionally sharp point. Leaves usually 1-2 cm long, 2-3 mm wide, green, lower surface often much paler. Flowers 10-15 mm in diameter, greenish or creamy white. Sepals 2-2.5 mm long. Nut 6-10 mm in diameter. Main flowering period November-December.

PlantNET description of species and key to subspecies: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Leptospermum-polygalifolium> (accessed 22 January, 2021)

Additional information in: Thompson, J. (8 December 1989), A revision of the genus *Leptospermum* (Myrtaceae). *Telopea* 3(3): 396-402, map 7-45

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*Author: Betty Wood.*

*This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:*



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