

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering branches. Photographer Ken Thomas, Narradgi National Park, ACT



Branches with young fruit. Photographer Ken Thomas, Narradgi National Park, ACT



Shrub. Photographer Ken Thomas, Narradgi National Park, ACT

Common name

A Tree Violet

Family

Violaceae

Where found

Woodland, grassland, and rocky areas. Kosciuszko National Park, the mountains to the north, ACT, and tablelands south of the ACT.

Notes

Shrub to 2 m high or sprawling to **prostrate**. Fruit fleshy. Plants with rigid **divaricate** branches, most branch angles at 60-85 degrees from the trunk. Branches and short side branchlets rigid, tapered rather abruptly to thick spines. Fruit fleshy. Bark smooth, grey, with **lenticels**. Adult leaves **alternating** up the stems or in clusters of 2-6, 0.4-2.7 cm long, 1.2-4.5 mm wide, variable on the same plant, margins **entire** or with 1 or 2 shallow teeth on each margin; tips blunt; surfaces hairless, or covered with minute, scattered hairs just above the base, **lateral veins** usually not apparent. **Juvenile** leaves usually resembling **adult** leaves, mid- to dark-green. Flowers honey-scented. Flowers cream, usually mauve or purplish towards the tips, 2.2-3.5 mm long, 3.5-3.8 mm wide at the widest point, tubular, the tube bell-shaped, with 5 lobes. Flowers in clusters of 1-3. Flowers Aug-Dec. Fruit uniformly or mottled bluish grey to white, sweet-tasting, 7-8 mm long.

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=in&name=Melicytus~angustifolius+subsp.~divaricatus> (accessed 12 February, 2021)

Description partly based on Stajsic, V., Walsh, N.G., Douglas, R., Messina, A. & Molloy, B.P.J. (2015), A revision of *Melicytus* (Violaceae) in mainland Australia and Tasmania. *Australian Systematic Botany* 27(4): 317-320

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