

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



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



Flowering stem with trunk in the background. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, near Forster



Unripe fruit and leaves. Photographer Don Wood, near Jervis Bay



Tree. Photographer Mark Marathon, Mt Archer National Park, Qld

## Common name

Muttonwood

## Family

Primulaceae

## Where found

**Forest, shrubland**, exposed situations on the coast, and near streams and mangrove swamps. Coast and ranges north from near Batemans Bay. Rarely farther south.

## Notes

**Shrub** or tree to 13 m high, often mustistemmed from suckers if the roots are damaged. Fruit fleshy. Leaves, especially **juvenile** leaves, often with prominent more or less prickly teeth. Bark cream to greyish brown, smooth or becoming rough and corky. Young stems hairy, soon becoming hairless. Buds at the tips of the stems densely hairy with fawn to brown hairs. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 3–14 cm long, 10–45 mm wide, margins **entire** or with prominent stiff, almost prickly, teeth, especially in juvenile leaves, upper surface shiny green, lower surface duller, **veins** more or less equally distinct on both surfaces, tips rounded or barely pointed, leaf stalks 3–7 mm long. Flowers appear bisexual, though functioning as male and female flowers on different plants. Flowers white or cream to pale yellow, 1.5–3.5 mm long, tubular, with 4–5 **erect** lobes. Flowers in clusters of 4–9 flowers, appearing many-flowered. Flowers mainly May to September. Fruit fleshy, blue to purple when ripe, 4–6 mm in diameter.

Family was Myrsinaceae.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Myrsine~variabilis> (accessed 28 January, 2021)

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