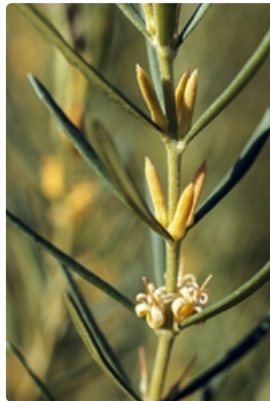


# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers on stem(subsp. *budawangensis*).  
Photographer Roger Farrow , Mt Budawang



Flowering stem(subsp. *caleyi*). Australian Plant  
Image Index, photographer A McWhirter, Australian  
National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Flowering and fruiting stems (subsp. *caleyi*).  
Photographer Don Wood, Booderee National Park,  
Jervis Bay Territory



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



Flowering stem(subsp. *leptophylla*). Photographer  
Don Wood, Bomaderry Creek Regional Reserve near  
Nowra



Flowering stems (subsp. *livens*). Australian Plant  
Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, north of  
Braidwood

## Common name

Soft Geebung

## Family

Proteaceae

## Where found

**Forest, heath**, and gullies. Coast, ranges and tablelands north from Bournda Nature Reserve south of Tathra.

subsp. *budawangensis*: Ranges mostly in Morton National Park, Budawang National Park, and Monga National Park.

subsp. *caleyi*: Coast, ranges, and tablelands, mainly north of the Kings Highway.

subsp. *ledifolia*: Coast, ranges, and tablelands, mainly between Wollongong, Jervis Bay, and east of Marulan. Occasionally elsewhere.

subsp. *leptophylla*: Coast, ranges, and tablelands, between Bundanoon and the Kings Highway.

subsp. *livens*: Ranges and tablelands, mostly between Bowral and the Kings Highway.

subsp. *maxima*: Sydney, west from Kuringai Chase National Park. Located over an approximate north-south range of 5.75 km and east-west distance of 7.5 km.

subsp. *mollis*: Ranges and tablelands, north from the Wollongong district.

subsp. *nectens*: Coast and ranges north from west of Kiama.

subsp. *revoluta*: Ranges and tablelands between Kanangra Boyd National Park and Kangaroo Valley. Rarely coastal

## Notes

**Shrub** to 6 m tall, **erect** to **prostrate**. Fruit fleshy. Bark smooth. Young branchlets moderately to densely hairy with greyish to rusty hairs. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, opposite each other, or **whorled**, 1.5–12 cm long, 0.8–17 mm wide, flat or convex in cross section, margins curved to rolled down, upper surface a very different colour from the lower surface, surfaces sometimes **glaucous**, sparsely to moderately hairy when young, becoming hairless to sparsely hairy when mature, and smooth to moderately rough. Flowers with 4 yellow '**petals**' each 7.5–11.5 mm long, more or less fused at the base, moderately to densely hairy. Flowers erect, mostly **subtended** by leaves, in 1–30-flowered clusters. Fruit purplish-brown when ripe, resembling a small plum.

Protected NSW (all subspecies).

**subsp. budawangensis**: Plants erect. Leaves 2–4 cm long, 2 to less than 6 mm wide, margins curved or rolled down, tips more or less blunt. '**Petals**' 7.5–10.5 mm long; the longest hairs on buds and young leaves 0.2–0.6 mm long.

**subsp. caleyi**: Plants erect. Leaves 3–6 cm long, 2 to less than 6 mm wide, margins curved or rolled down, tips pointed.

Hybridises occasionally with *Persoonia linearis* when they grow together.

**subsp. ledifolia**: Plants erect. Leaves 2–4 cm long, 2 to less than 6 mm wide, margins curved or rolled down, tips more or less blunt. '**Petals**' 9–11.5 mm long; longest hairs on buds and young leaves 0.4–1 mm long.

Hybridises occasionally with *Persoonia levis* and with *Persoonia linearis*.

**subsp. leptophylla**: Plants erect or prostrate. Leaves 1.5–6 cm long, 0.8–2 mm wide, bright green, undersurface sparsely to moderately covered hairy with **appressed** hairs, margins tightly rolled, tips squared off to blunt or bluntly pointed.

Hybridises occasionally with *Persoonia linearis* when they grow together.

**subsp. livens**: Plants erect or prostrate. Leaves 1.5–6 cm long, 0.8–2 mm wide, green to grey-green, undersurface densely covered hairy with appressed hairs, margins tightly rolled, tips squared off to blunt or bluntly pointed.

Hybridises occasionally with *Persoonia linearis* and with *Persoonia microphylla*.

**subsp. maxima**: Plants erect to 6 m high. Leaves 4–12 cm long, 6–17 mm wide, margins curved down. flower buds, young branchlets, and young leaves moderately to densely hairy, with **spreading** hairs 2–3 mm long, copper coloured when fresh or dried.

Endangered Australia. Endangered NSW.

NSW Threatened Species profile: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=10597> (accessed 7 January, 2021)

**subsp. mollis**: Plants erect. Leaves 4–12 cm long, 6–17 mm wide, margins curved down. flower buds, young branchlets, and young leaves moderately to densely hairy, with spreading hairs about 1 mm long, **silky**-white when fresh, copper coloured when dried.

Hybridises occasionally with *Persoonia linearis* when they grow together.

**subsp. nectens**: Plants erect. Leaves 4–12 cm long, 6–17 mm wide, margins curved down. Flower buds, and to a lesser extent young branchlets and young leaves, moderately hairy, with spreading silky white hairs about 0.5 mm long.

**subsp. revoluta**: Plants prostrate to sprawling. Leaves 1.5–6 cm long, larger leaves usually more than 6 mm wide, margins curved to rolled down, tips usually blunt.

Vulnerable NSW.

NSW Threatened Species profile: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=20345> (accessed 7 January, 2021)

PlantNET description of species and key to subspecies: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Persoonia~mollis> (accessed 7 January, 2021)

---

*Author: Betty Wood.*



*Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY)*

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



*Android edition*



*iOS edition*