

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



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



Flowering stem (subsp. *obovata*). Photographer Don Wood, Booderee National Park, Jervis Bay Territory

Common name

A Waxflower

Box-leaf Waxflower (subsp. *buxifolia*)

Family

Rutaceae

Where found

Dry **forest** and **heath**.

subsp. *buxifolia*: Mainly coast and ranges north of Wollongong. Jervis Bay

subsp. *falcata*: Jervis Bay

subsp. *obovata*: Sydney area and north. Blue Mountains. Jervis Bay to Ulladulla.

Notes

Shrub to 1.3 m high. Stems cylindrical, ribbed, finely bristly. Leaves aromatic when rubbed, **alternating** up the stems, 0.6–1.8 cm long, 3–12 mm wide, surfaces mostly hairless, upper surface more or less flat to concave or strongly folded together lengthwise, smooth, lower surface **keeled** and **glandular**, margins **entire** or scalloped and sometimes slightly curved down, tips rounded and with a small abrupt point. Flowers with 5 white to pink **petals**, each 8–15 mm long. **Stamens** free from each other, the **filaments** usually hairy from the base, sometimes cohering by intertwined hairs. Flowers single. Flowers Winter to Spring.

Intergrades with *Philotheca hispidula*, *Philotheca myoporoides*, and *Philotheca scabra*.

Protected NSW.

subsp. *buxifolia*: Leaves round to broad-elliptic, 3.5–12 mm wide, not strongly folded together and strongly curved; bases **cordate**; lower surface smooth, margins entire. Flower stalks hairless or rarely finely bristly.

subsp. *falcata*: Leaves round to broad-elliptic, 3.5–12 mm wide, strongly folded together and strongly curved; base narrowed; lower surface **gland** dotted, margins entire. Flower stalks hairless or finely rough.

subsp. *obovata*: Leaves oval with a pointed top, 3–6 mm wide, base wedge-shaped, margins strongly glandular and scalloped, lower surface glandular-warty, **midrib** very prominent. Flower stalks sparsely and finely bristly.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Philotheca~buxifolia> (accessed 25 January, 2021)

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