

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers and young fruit. Photographer John Tann, Paruna Reserve near Sydney



Ripe fruit. Photographer John Tann, Paruna Reserve near Sydney



Flowering stems. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



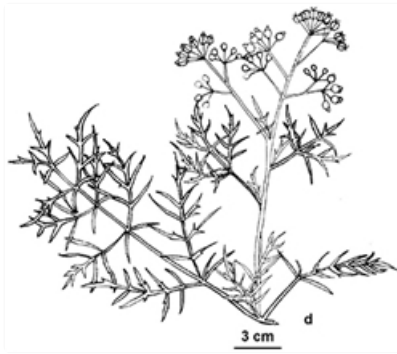
Flowers, young fruit, and leafy stem (subsp. Bipinnate leaves). Photographer Don Wood, Yurammie Slate Forest, west of Merimbula



Flowering branches (subsp. Long leaflets). Photographer Chris Clarke, Alpine National Park, Vic



Flowers, young fruit, and leafy stem (subsp. Short leaflets). Photographer Don Wood, Wadbilliga National Park



Line drawing (subsp. Bipinnate leaves). d. flowering branch. K Maling, University of Sydney, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board, Melbourne, Vic



Line drawing (subsp. Long leaflets). c. flowering branch. K Maling, University of Sydney, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board, Melbourne, Vic



Line drawings (subsp. Short leaflets). e. flowering branch. K Maling, University of Sydney, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board, Melbourne, Vic

## Common name

Elderberry Panax, Ornamental Ash, Elderberry Ash

Ferny Panax (subsp. Bipinnate leaves)

## Family

Araliaceae

## Where found

Forest, **woodland**, disturbed areas, and rocky sites. Widespread. Rarely on the Western Slopes.

subsp. Bipinnate leaves (J.H.Ross 3967) Vic. Herbarium. Forest, often on rocky soils, below 1300 m altitude. Widespread. Rarely on the Western Slopes.

subsp. Long leaflets (P.G.Neish 208) Vic. Herbarium. Wet **forest** and **rainforest** margins. Coast, ranges, and the mountainous parts of the tablelands. Rarely elsewhere.

subsp. Short leaflets (V.Stajsic 196) Vic. Herbarium. Forest and woodland, often in disturbed sites, usually between 750 and 1970 m altitude. Ranges and mountainous areas on the tablelands. ACT and Brindabella National Park. Kosciuszko National Park.

## Notes

Shrub or tree to about 6 m high. Often suckers. Fruit fleshy. Stems almost hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, **compound**, pinnate or **bipinnate** to **tripinnate**, 5-40 cm long, with 5-21 leaflets per **pinna**. When present, **pinnae** to 20 cm long. Leaflets 1-20 cm long, 3-60 mm wide or more (up to 200 mm wide in Vic.), commonly **glaucous** on lower surface. Flowers bisexual, first functionally male, then losing their **stamens** and becoming functionally female. Flowers cream to light green or greenish yellow, 3-4 mm in diameter, with 5 **petals**. Flowers in large branched clusters, rarely in **simple umbels**. Fruit mauve to translucent steely blue, or purple, edible.

Regarded as Indigenous/**Naturalised** in the ACT.

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

**subsp. Bipinnate leaves (J.H.Ross 3967) Vic. Herbarium.** Shrub to 3 m high. Leaves bipinnate or rarely tripinnate, 10-30 cm long; **secondary** rachises up to 20 cm long, leaflets 1-7 cm long, 5-15 mm wide, margins **entire** to deeply **dissected**. Flowers Nov.-Jan.

Was *Polyscias sambucifolia* subsp. with *Polyscias sambucifolia* subsp. 2 in Vic.

**subsp. Long leaflets (P.G.Neish 208) Vic. Herbarium.** Tree or **shrub** to about 6 m high. Leaves 5–40 cm long, with a single **rachis**, usually with 5–13 leaflets, leaflets usually 3–20 cm long, 20–60 mm wide (up to 200 mm wide in Vic.), margins more or less toothed. Petals 4 or 5 (to 8 or more). Flowers Nov.–Feb.

Was *Polyscias sambucifolia* subsp. A. *Polyscias sambucifolia* subsp. 1 in Vic.

**subsp. Short leaflets (V.Stajsic 196) Vic. Herbarium.** Shrub rarely exceeding 2 m high. Leaves 6–30 cm long; with a single rachis, with about 13 leaflets; leaflets usually 2–7 cm long and 3–20 mm wide, margins entire or rarely lobed. Flowers Jan.–Feb. Fruit 4–5 mm long.

Was *Polyscias sambucifolia* subsp. B. *Polyscias sambucifolia* subsp. 3 in Vic.

PlantNET description of species and key to subspecies: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Polyscias~sambucifolia> (accessed 2 February, 2021)

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



*Android edition*



*iOS edition*