

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, SA.



Fruit and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, SA.



Shrub. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, SA

Common name

Buckthorn, Italian Buckthorn

Family

Rhamnaceae

Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, **shrubland**, **grassland**, plantations, disturbed sites, roadsides, rocky outcrops, dunes and coastal flats, and near streams. Sydney area. Occasionally elsewhere.

Notes

Introduced shrub to 5 m high. Leaf margins with sharp teeth. Fruit fleshy. Bark dark brown, furrowed. Younger stems hairy with **simple** hairs, or hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, rarely almost opposite each other, 2–7.5 cm long, 5–40 mm wide, somewhat leathery, margins toothed, both surfaces hairless, upper surface dark green and glossy, lower surface paler, tips pointed. Male and bisexual flowers on the same plant, the majority being male. Flowers fragrant, greenish or yellow-green, to 3 mm long, with 0 or 4–5 **petals**, fused at their bases into a tube, and 5 tiny **sepals**. Flowers in small dense clusters 5–25 mm long. Flowers May–Oct. Fruit initially green, turning red, ripening black, blue-black, or brown, oval to globular, 3–7 mm in diameter.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Rhamnus~alaternus> (accessed 4 February, 2021)

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