

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower and leaves. Photographer Jackie Mles, Jerrys Plains, west of Singleton



Flowers and leaves. Photographer Jackie Mles, Jerrys Plains, west of Singleton



Shrub. Photographer Jackie Mles, Jerrys Plains, west of Singleton

Common name

Violet nightshade

Family

Solanaceae

Where found

Forest and **woodland** with a dense shrubby understorey, and disturbed sites. Blue Mountains and west from there. Mainly farther north than the area covered by this key.

Notes

Shrub to 1.8 m high. Prickles sparse on the branches and **juvenile** leaves, rarely on the leaf stalks and **calyces**, absent elsewhere. Fruit fleshy. Stems densely **stellate**-hairy (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see). Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 6.5–13 cm long, 14–30 mm wide, upper surface dark green to grey-green and sparsely hairy, lower surface yellowish to rusty, often **woolly**, margins **entire** or wavy. Juvenile leaves to 10 cm long and 30 mm wide, margins shallowly to deeply lobed. Flowers purple or violet to pale blue, rarely white, 22–40 mm in diameter, tubular with a short tube and 5 **spreading** lobes or star-shaped, in clusters of 5–8 flowers. Flowering: Winter to Spring. Fruit white or green to yellow, round, 10–29 mm in diameter.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Solanum-brownii> (accessed 7 February, 2021)

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