

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Male flowers and leaves. Photographer Mark Marathon, Mount Etna Caves National Park, Central Qld



Female flower and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Branches with male flower buds. Photographer Mark Marathon, Mount Etna Caves National Park, Central Qld

Common name

Whalebone tree, White handlewood

Family

Moraceae

Where found

Forest. Coast and ranges north from Milton.

Notes

Shrub or tree to 30 m high. Fruit fleshy. Bark tough, pulling away in strips, green to greyish. Branches with raised **lenticels** and transverse ridges. Stems with lenticels, sparsely to densely hairy, becoming hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, usually 1–8 cm long, 10–50 mm wide, surfaces rough, upper surface glossy, lower surface hairy with fine hairs or rough, margins toothed to almost **entire**, tips pointed. **Juvenile** leaves to 20 cm long, often narrow, lobed at the base. Male and female flowers on different plants. Flowers white, with 4 '**petals**' about 1–2 mm long. Male **spikes** about 10–50 mm long, female spikes about 5–30 mm long, or with 1–4 flowers. Fruit yellow to red, oval, 4–6 mm long, ripe Jan.–Apr.

Separated from *Streblus pendulinus*, which in the strict sense is now considered to occur only on Norfolk Island.

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

Author: Betty Wood.



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