

Sophora tomentosa subsp. *australis* Yakovlev

Family:
Fabaceae

Yakovlev, G.P. (1967) *Trudy Leningradskogo Khimiko-Farmaceuticheskogo Instituta* 21: 54. Type: Port Denison, Queensland, 8.x.1887, F. v. Mueller (LE).

Common name:
Silver Bush; Sea-coast Laburnum

Stem

Seldom exceeding 30 cm dbh. Blaze odour resembling that of beans. Usually flowers and fruits when still at the shrub stage.

Leaves

Twigs, compound leaf axis and underside of leaflet blades clothed in silvery hairs. Freshly broken twigs emitting an odour like that of beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*). Leaflet blades about 25-55 x 19-32 mm.

Flowers

Inflorescences about 10-50 cm long, pedicels about 7-10 mm long. Calyx densely clothed in silver, prostrate hairs, calyx about 5-7 mm long, lobes small and inconspicuous. Petals variable, about 19-25 mm long. Ovary appressed pubescent.

Fruit

Pods about 6-15 x 1 cm, conspicuously constricted between the seeds (down to about 2 mm) resembling a string of beads. Seeds almost globular, about 6-9 mm diam.

Seedlings

Two or three cataphylls usually produced before the first true leaves. First few pairs of leaves may be simple, bifoliate or trifoliate, hairy on the upper surface. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves with about 5-7 leaflets, leaflet blades ovate or elliptic, apex obtuse, base cuneate to obtuse, upper and lower surfaces whitish from pale hairs; petiole, rhachis of compound leaf, leaflet stalks, stem and terminal bud densely hairy. Terminal leaflets usually larger than the lateral leaflets and each terminal leaflet equipped with a pulvinus on the stalk. Stalk of the terminal leaflet is longer than those of the lateral leaflets. Seed germination time 21 to 28 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NT, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards to north eastern New South Wales. Restricted to elevations slightly above mean sea level. Grows on beaches and in beach forest. The species is Pan-tropic, found on sea shores.

Natural History & Notes

All plant parts poisonous. Austin, D. F. 1998. *Poisonous Plants of Southern Florida*.

This species has been used medicinally in Malaysia. Cribb (1981). Of no grazing significance. Roots and seeds have been used for medicinal purposes. Hacker (1990).

Synonyms

Sophora tomentosa L., *Species Plantarum* 2: 373 (1753). Type: Habitat in Zeylona.

RFK Code

481



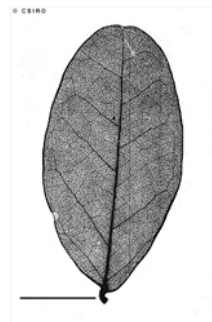
Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves, flowers and fruit. © CSIRO



Fruit and seeds. © W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, hypogeal germination. © CSIRO



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