

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem (male flowers) and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Seed cases, seeds, and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Leaves and trunk. Photographer Jackie Miles

Common name

Brittlewood

Family

Euphorbiaceae

Where found

Forest and wet gullies. Coast, ranges, and occasionally the eastern part of the tablelands.

Notes

Tree or **shrub** to about 9 m high. Fleshy **arils** on the seeds. Bark light brown or grey to cream, fairly smooth, with blisters and **lenticels**. Branchlets hairless or hairy with fine hairs, with prominent lenticels. Small branches pale and brittle. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 6–15 cm long, 20–50 mm wide, margins toothed or scalloped, sometimes obscurely so, surfaces glossy or dull, hairless or hairy with fine hairs, **veins** prominent on both surfaces. 1–5 raised **glands** at the tops of the leaf stalks. Male and female flowers usually on different plants, occasionally on the same plant. Flowers with 3–4 greenish '**petals**' each about 2 mm long. Flowers in **racemes**, male racemes 50–80 mm long, the flowers single or in 2–6 flowered groups along the axis of the **raceme**, female racemes 30–50 mm long, the flowers single along the axis, rarely a single female flower in a male cluster. Seed cases green, drying purplish black, 3-lobed, 5–6 mm in diameter, containing 3 seeds with bright red arils which completely cover the seeds.

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

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