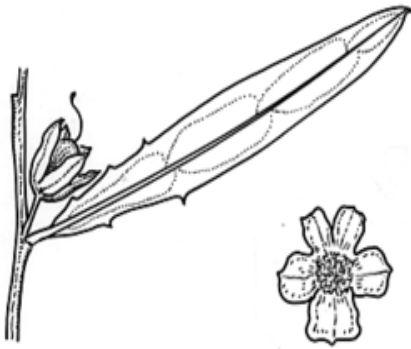


Scrophulariaceae
Eremophila debilis
 Amulla, winter apple



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 Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(er-e-MOFF-il-a) Greek eremos = desert + philos = loving of arid habitat; The species debilis (DEB-bee-lis) weak, feeble, debilitated, referring to the small plant's low-growing habit;

LIFEFORM

Herb 10 cm x 1.5 m spread

STATUS

Widespread, Uncommon per site in coastal Qld, NSW

OCCURS

Rockhampton Qld, Deniliquin, NSW

HABITAT

Tableland slopes and plains Cypress & Box Woodlands, Islands

LEAVES

Alternate, 2-12 x 2 cm, lanceolate, stiff, crinkly with scattered teeth margin toward base, pointed tip;

FLOWERS

Bell-shaped, 1 cm, white or pink, scented with purple tips; white to mauve, on a solitary stem, or in cluster of 2 or 3, in the leaf axils during spring and summer.

Flowering times: Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April, May

FRUIT

Drupes, 8 mm, round, ovoid, fleshy, purplish red, pink skinned, fleshy tangy flavour covers one large seed; **Fruiting times:** Feb, March

ROOTS

Thick rootstock with grey or green stems often mat forming;

STEM

Prostrate groundcover; leaves inserted at acute angle to stem;

ETHNOBOTANY

Edible fruit: white or pink when ripe; Useful groundcover, hanging basket, or pot plant; worthy of cultivation for flowers fruit and foliage; Plant at 1 m intervals

TOLERANCE

Full sun partial shade. Well drained. Slightly frost tender.

NATIVE BEES

Flowers visited by *Euryglossa atra*, *Tetragonula carbonaria*

INSECTS

Aphis gossypii, *Coenotes eremophilae* fruit fly;

BIRD

Flowers/fruit eaten by Mallee Ringneck, Bustards/Plain Turkeys, Emu, Honeyeaters, Silvereyes

BUTTERFLY

Candalides heathi Rayed Blue

INDIGENOUS USES

Fruit eaten raw by aborigines; Leaves and flowers eaten or sucked to obtain nectar plant used against venereal diseases;

ID FEATURE

Leaves alternate and a different colour to the surrounding plants;