

**Pittosporaceae**  
***Bursaria spinosa* subsp. *spinosa***  
**prickly blackthorn**



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SBERRY

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<b>ETYMOLOGY</b>	(bur-SAIR-ee-a) Bursaria purse shaped fruit. Latin = bursa a purse; The species spinosus (spee-NO-sum) thorny with many spines; referring to thorny branchlets;
<b>LIFEFORM</b>	Shrub 5-10 m x 1-5m Spread
<b>STATUS</b>	Well conserved; Common small population size; Longevity: 25-60 years.
<b>OCCURS</b>	Stanthorpe Qld to Barrington Top NSW, Grampians Vic, WA, Kangaroo Island SA, Narawntapu N P, Deviot Tas
<b>QLD DISTRICTS</b>	Burke, Cook, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Maranoa, Moreton, North Kennedy, Port Curtis, Wide Bay
<b>HABITAT</b>	Open forest, Remnant in paddocks
<b>LEAVES</b>	Alternate, 10-35 x 3-15 mm, narrow obovate, blunt, with shallow teeth; shiny dark green both sides, with spoon-shapes ends, spines, 10 mm, attached in leaf axils;
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Petals 4-6 mm, narrowly oblong, white 5 star-shaped, scented blossoms white stamens on upright dense, conical sprays; <b>Flowering Times</b> Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March
<b>FRUIT</b>	Capsules, 4-10 x 6-9 mm, flattened, dark brown heart-shaped thin walled, base slightly stalked; apex truncate notched, style persistent, broadly 2-lobed, brown, purse-like pouches, contains seeds; <b>Fruiting Times</b> March, April, May
<b>BARK</b>	Rough corky very rugged, scaly, dark grey almost black;
<b>TRUNK or STEM</b>	Slender short trunks <19cm Dbh, often crooked with small thorns or spines on
<b>ETHNOBOTANY</b>	Power lines friendly; Useful as screening or windbreaks; street tree, useful hedge; Flowers/fruits floral arrangements; Leaves contain the <i>coumarin aeculin</i> which has been used in the treatment of lupus an ulcerous skin condition by irradiation used subcutaneously; Aeculin has also used as ultraviolet radiation screen in suntan lotions; Used in modern medicine; Leaves contain aesculin which has several medical uses (Cribb1981); Fruit/Leaves contain 4-5% aesculin absorbs ultra-violet light, found in sun screen. Drug aesculin is extracted from leaves and has been harvested commercially in Australia. Timber is pale fine-grained and tough; seasons well due to little shrinkage; Wood used for turner takes polish well;

**WILDLIFE**

High wildlife value, as a habitat for birds; Thorny plant discourages unwelcome intruders and birds nests. Nectar plant for butterflies, habitat for both birds and insects; Flowers attracts many insects and spider in turn birds use the webs for nest building. and as a nectar source, useful honey plant in poor seasons, producing medium to heavy quantities of pollen and average amounts of a damp amber honey.

**MISTLETOE  
INSECTS**

Host to *Lysiana exocarpi*

Lamprolina aeneipennis (leaf beetle) Scarab Beetles, Foodplant of moth larvae *Proselena annosana* Palaeosia bicosta, *Ectropis subtilctaria*; Xanthodule ombrophanes feeds on lichens and algae often found on the branches; Flower attract *Geitoneura acantha* (eastern ringed xenica) *Ectropis excursaria*, *Epermenia exilis*, *Epiphyas postvittana*, *Nemophora chrysolamprella* (fairy moth), *Nemophora sparsella*, *Proselena annosana* (Common 1990).

**BIRD**

eastern spinebill, double-barred finch (nesting) grey fantails, crescent honeyeaters, black Headed honeyeaters, new holland honeyeaters, brown thornbills, robins;

**BUTTERFLY**

Food plant for larval stages of Bright Copper, dull copper or fiery copper (*Paralucia pyrodiscus*), bright copper (*Paralucia aurifera*), common grass blue, large ant-blue, Eltham copper, Bathurst Copper butterfly (*Paralucia spinifera*)

**INDIGENOUS USES**

Wood used for boomerangs; Leaves contain natural sunscreen;

**ID FEATURE**

New shoots hairy + Leaves glabrous beneath abaxial surface of leaves usually not persisting with age; Seedlings with dentate margins; flowers 4-6 mm; fruit flattened

