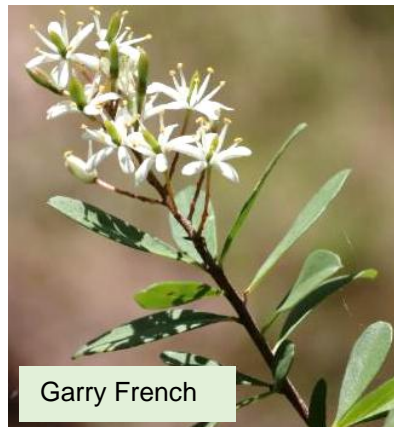


Pittosporaceae

Bursaria spinosa subsp. *spinosa*

prickly blackthorn

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ETYMOLOGY

(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;

LIFEFORM

Shrub 5-10 m x 1-5m Spread

STATUS

Well conserved; Common small population size; Longevity: 25-60 years.

OCCURS

Stanthorpe Qld to Barrington Top NSW, Grampians Vic, WA, Kangaroo Island SA, Narawntapu N P, Deviot Tas

QLD DISTRICTS

Burke, Cook, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Maranoa, Moreton, North Kennedy, Port Curtis, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Open forest, Remnant in paddocks

LEAVES

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;

FLOWERS

Petals 4-6 mm, narrowly oblong, white 5 star-shaped, scented blossoms white stamens on upright dense, conical sprays; **Flowering Times** Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March

FRUIT

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 pouchs, contains seeds; **Fruiting Times** March, April, May

BARK

Rough corky very rugged, scaly, dark grey almost black;

TRUNK or STEM

Slender short trunks <19cm Dbh, often crooked with small thorns or spines on

ETHNOBOTANY

Power lines friendly; Useful as screening or windbreaks; street tree, useful hedge:

Flowers/fruits floral arrangements; Leaves contain the *coumarin aesculin* which has been used in the treatment of lupus an ulcerous skin condition by irradiation used subcutaneously; Aesculin 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	Host to <i>Lysiana exocarpi</i>
INSECTS	Lamprolina aeneipennis (leaf beetle) Scarab Beetles, Foodplant of moth larvae <i>Proselena annosana</i> <i>Palaeosia bicosta</i> , <i>Ectropis subtinctoria</i> ; <i>Xanthodula ombrophanes</i> feeds on lichens and algae often found on the branches; Flower attract <i>Geitoneura acantha</i> (eastern ringed xenica) <i>Ectropis excursaria</i> , <i>Epermenia exilis</i> , <i>Epiphyas postvittana</i> , <i>Nemophora chrysolamprella</i> (fairy moth), <i>Nemophora sparsella</i> , <i>Proselena annosana</i> (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 (<i>Paralucia pyrodiscus</i>), bright copper (<i>Paralucia aurifera</i>), common grass blue, large ant-blue, Eltham copper, Bathurst Copper butterfly (<i>Paralucia spinifera</i>)
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