

Lamiaceae

Prostanthera ovalifolia purple or oval leaf mintbush

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ETYMOLOGY

(pros-TANTH-er-a) Greek appendage referring to small appendages on the anthers; The species ovalifolia (o-vah-lee-FO-lee-us) with oval leaves; describing leaf-shape.

LIFEFORM

Shrub 2-4 m x 1-3 m Spread

STATUS

Widespread on coast tableland and farther inland SE Qld, Northern Limit Mt Stanley eastern NSW, sporadically naturalised in eastern half of Victoria.

OCCURS

Springbrook N P Q Dorrig NSW

HABITAT

Wet/Dry sclerophyll forest

LEAVES

Opposite, 1-4 cm x 3-20 mm, lanceolate ovate, oblong, green above paler below, conspicuously gland dotted, scented on 3-10 mm stalks.

FLOWERS

Terminal, 8 mm, purplish blue, bell-shaped with 2 lips the lower lip 3 lobed upper 2 lobed in short, crowded clusters. **Flowering times** Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov

FRUIT

Fruit enclosed by persistent calyx **Fruiting times** Oct, Nov

STEM

Erect, spreading to dense soft-leaved grey-green shrub, non-aromatic or only slightly; branches 4-angled, sparsely covered with ± sessile glands and moderately covered with short, curled hairs, at least on the ridges.

ETHNOBOTANY

Popular garden shrub. Minty flavoured leaves used in jams and jellies.

INSECTS

Aenetus eximius, *Aenetus ligniveren* (Moths - Common, Waterhouse, 1993)

BIRD

Attracts nectar eating birds

ID FEATURE

Leaves 1-3 cm mostly entire, occasional toothed + Margins entire, or with coarse teeth + Apex obtuse.