

**Pittosporaceae**  
***Billardiera scandens***  
 common apple-berry

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**ETYMOLOGY**

(bill-ard-ee-EAR-a) J.E. Smith 1793 After Billardiere a French botanist 1755-1834; He visited WA & Tas with the D'Entrecasteaux expedition and named many new plants. The species scandens (SCAN-dens) from Latin = climbing.

**LIFEFORM**

Creeper 2-5m long

**STATUS**

Endemic to Australia; Rare in Vic and SA; Long lived

**OCCURS**

Sunshine Coast Qld to NSW, Mornington Peninsula Vic, Tas, SA

**QLD DISTRICTS**

Burnett, Darling Downs, Moreton, Wide Bay

**HABITAT**

Open forest

**LEAVES**

Alternate, 1-5 cm x 5 mm, linear-lanceolate, ovate, glabrous with lower surface furry or hairy with wavy margins.

**FLOWERS**

Solitary, 1-2 cm, tubular, 5 curled petals, cream to pale yellow on long stalks

**Flowering Times** June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

**FRUIT**

Berries, 2-3 cm, cylindrical, ovoid oblong, green fruit.

**Fruiting Times** Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

**STEM**

Strong wiry stems with very hairy young shoots.

**TOLERANCE**

Plant in sunny open position at 50-70 cm intervals ensure compact growth.

**ETHNOBOTANY**

Edible sweet astringent yellowish green ripe fruit tastes like lemon butter, Used in muffins with apple pie.

**INSECTS**

Eaten by rabbits (Kubiak P.) very prone to scale and to aphids on new growth.

**BIRD**

Flowers and fruit visited by Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebill

**INDIGENOUS USES**

Eaten ripe (pale opaque or brown) picked often on ground or from plant if unripe roast briefly before eating

**ID FEATURES**

Twiners + Flower petals overlapping to form tubular shape + Fruit in berries.