

## Malvaceae

### *Hibiscus splendens*

hollyhock tree



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#### ETYMOLOGY

(hy-BIS-cus) Greek *hibiscos* = marshmallow; The species *splendens* = splendid flower.

#### LIFEFORM

Small Tree 2-4 m x 2 m Spread

#### STATUS

Common Qld to NSW; (Southern geographical limit at Towradgi NSW); Longevity: 5-10 years; Recorded @ >133 Locations (Moran, A. 2009)

#### OCCURS

Hinchliffe's Rd, Milman, Wycarbah Qld to Bulli Pass NSW

#### QLD DISTRICTS

Burnett, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Moreton, Port Curtis, South Kennedy, Wide Bay

#### HABITAT

Rocky Slopes Wet sclerophyll

#### LEAVES

Alternate, 8-20 cm, shallowly toothed, woolly grey with large 3-5 lobes.

#### FLOWERS

Corolla 7 cm, pink with red centre; solitary, axillary. Epicalyx segments 10-12, linear, 18 - 25 mm long. Calyx 5 lobes lanceolate, acuminate, 30-40 mm long; nectaries absent.

#### FRUIT

Corolla 7 cm, pink **Flowering times** Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

Capsules, 30 mm, egg-shaped, bristly-hairy 5 valved fruit; numerous small smooth seeds, with a dense covering of long-appressed straw-coloured hairs.

#### STEM

Fruiting times May, Nov, Dec

Bushy tall shrub, with dense velvety hairy covering. Branchlets hairy with numerous scattered fine straight prickles on stems and stalks

#### ETHNOBOTANY

Decoction made from buds drunk to cure colds and congestion; Inner bark fibre very strong and fine texture prepared by maceration 12.

#### LANDSCAPE USE

Ornamental potential usage in landscaping.

#### TOLERANCE

High light levels, some shade tolerance; Sandy and stoney soil

#### WILDLIFE

Large bright flowers attract insects such as native bees and variety of birds.

#### NATIVE BEES

Flowers visited by *Homalictus urbanus*, *Hylaeus mirandus*

#### INSECTS

*Aethina concolor*, *Coenotes eremophilae*, *Crocidosema plebejana*, *Earias perhuegeli*, *Onebala hibisci*, *Pectinophora endema*, *Pgossyiella*, *Pscutigera*, *Phyllonorycter stephanota*, *Plectophila discalis*, *Xanthodes congenita*, *Xanthodes transversa*

#### INDIGENOUS USES

Young shoots, flower buds and roots were all eaten raw or cooked (Leiper, G 1984); Used the wood for firesticks

#### ID FEATURE

Leaves without glands; Flowers pink on 1 cm articulate peduncle below flower + Prickly branchlets with very dense velvety stellate fine hairs + Capsules densely pubescent.