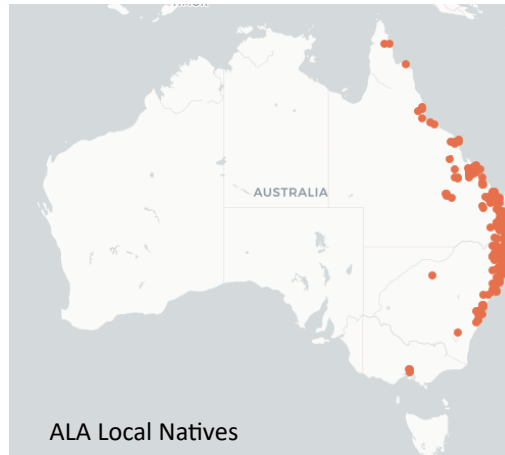


Malvaceae

Hibiscus splendens

hollyhock tree



Ann Moran
Field Botanist



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.

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

FRUIT

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

Fruiting times May, Nov, Dec

STEM

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*, *Crociosema 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.