

## Pittosporaceae

### *Pittosporum*

*angustifolium* syn

### *Pittosporum phillyreoides*

weeping pittosporum, native apricot, cattle bush, butterbush



Ann Moran  
Field Botanist

ALA Local Natives



Dawnborchardt iNat



Caro Telfer iNat

## ETYMOLOGY

(pit-OS-por-um) pitta = pitch; spora = seed (sticky seeds); The species *angustifolia* (ann-gus-tee-FO-lee-ah) thin long narrow leaves; referring to the appearance of the foliage.

## LIFEFORM

Tree 2-10 m x 2-3 m Spread

## STATUS

Very high conservation value; Widespread; Drier inland areas of mainland states except NT; Common, in Mallee, Woodlands throughout; Kangaroo Island Mt Greenly, Port Lincoln,

## OCCURS

Roma Emerald Q, Muswellbrook NSW, Mt Arapiles, Edenhope Vic, Lincoln SA, WA, NT

## QLD DISTRICTS

Burke, Burnett, Darling Downs, Gregory North/South, Leichhardt, Maranoa, Mitchell,

Moreton, Port Curtis, South Kennedy, Warrego, Wide Bay

## HABITAT

Inland undulating terrain, Dry Mallee, Woodland

## LEAVES

Whorled, 5-8 cm x 5-8 mm, narrow lanceolate, leathery, terminating in hooked point and light green: hanging like weeping-willow.

## FLOWERS

Tubular, 7-9 mm, creamy-yellow, scented, 5-petalled solitary, bell-like on short stalked clusters in leaf fork; **Flowering times** Aug, Sept, Oct

## FRUIT

Capsules, 1-2 cm, ovoid, bright orange bony, when ripe opening in 2 halves containing 2-7 angular seeds immersed in red sticky pulp; **Fruiting times** March, April, May

## BARK

Dark grey or brown deeply furrowed on old plants, mottled grey to white smooth on young plants Attractive hard mottled grey to whitish rough (at least at base);

## STEM

Small hairless slender trees of scruffy, narrow habit with pendulous branches with graceful drooping branches

<b>ETHNOBOTANY</b>	Tree yields good edible gum; Leaves eaten by cattle, branches often cut used as stock fodder, considered reasonably to moderate nutritional value; In India used to treat certain skin diseases such as scabies and herpes; also use as embrocation in rheumatism; Seed oil contains <i>pongamol</i> and several flavonoids; Close grained light coloured timber is used for making small articles and for wood-turning;
<b>TOLERANCE</b>	Hardy drought tolerant.
<b>LANDSCAPE USES</b>	Ideal for windbreak.
<b>NATIVE BEES</b>	Scented flowers visited: <i>Austrolebeia australis</i> , <i>Chalicodoma semiluctuosa</i> , <i>Leioproctus sp</i>
<b>MISTLETOES</b>	<i>Amyema miraculosum</i> ssp <i>boormanii</i> , <i>Lysiana subfalcata</i> ;
<b>BIRDS</b>	Attractive to birds.
<b>BUTTERFLY</b>	<i>Deudorix diovis</i> Bright Cornelian (seeds)
<b>INDIGENOUS USES</b>	Medical purposes - Gumby Gumby: All parts of the plant are emetic; A poultice of leaves used for foul ulcers; Gum decoction of fruits or leaves used internally or externally for colds, internal pains, sprains, eczema; Rubbing paste from the ground seeds for relief of sprained limbs, cramps & skin irritations; Infusion leaves taken for the relief of internal pains and compress of warmed leaves applied to induce milk-flow in new mothers;
<b>ID FEATURE</b>	Branchlets drooping + Leaves, (similar to Wilga, but without scent) falcate, green hairless, ending in hook on 1 cm stalks + Scented flower with 5 petals + Capsules orange;