

Maroon Bush



Scientific name: *Scaevola spinescens*

Aboriginal name: Murin Murin (Noongar)



Plant habit



Flower

Berries

About ...

Also called the 'Prickly Fan Flower'. This plant is found in all mainland Australian States except Victoria.

Young growth is soft and hairy; older, established plants have a prickly foliage.

From the late 1940's to the late 1980's there was considerable interest in the Maroon Bush in Western Australia. Towards the end of this period, and for more than a decade, the Western Australian Health Department supplied the 'bush tea' to cancer patients. It was effective in reducing the negative side effects of other treatments like chemotherapy. It is now well known that chemical compounds within the tea have a positive influence on the mood and wellbeing of people taking it. Its use in WA is now 'Prescription Only', and the plant is a protected species.

Family	GOODENIACEAE
Climate	Semi arid
Habitat	Sandplains, scrublands
Form	Medium-sized shrub Height: up to 2 m
Foliage	Thin, long oval leaves Come off the main stem in clusters Length: 9 – 36 mm Width: 1 – 6 mm
Flower	Most of the year Creamy white to yellow Petals spread open like a fan in a semi-circular shape rather than a full circle, like most flowers
Fruit	Follows from flower Small purplish oval berries Contain a single seed Length: 5 – 8 mm

Aboriginal Uses



- The tea like extract was traditionally used by Aboriginal people for the treatment of cancer, heart disease, intestinal trouble, urinary problems, kidney trouble and general illnesses
- Roots were boiled in water; the infused water was then drunk to reduce pains in the digestive system
- Purple berries are edible

Developed by SERCUL for use with the *Bush Tucker Education Program*.



Used as food



Used as medicine



Used as resources



Local to SW WA

Caution: Do not prepare bush tucker food without having been shown by Indigenous or experienced persons. Some bush tucker if eaten in large quantities or not prepared correctly can cause illness.

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bushtucker/

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