



ETYMOLOGY	(er-e-MOFF-il-a) Greek eremos = desert + philos = loving of arid habitat; The species debilis (DEB-bee-lis) weak, feeble, debilitated; small referring to the plant's low-growing habit;
LIFEFORM	Herb Height 10cm Width 1.5m
STATUS	Widespread coast, tableland slopes and plains Qld, NSW
OCCURS	Rockhampton Q, Deniliquin, NSW
HABITAT	Inland plains, Cypress & Box Woodlands, Islands
TOLERANCES	Full sun partial shade. Well drained. Slightly frost tender.
LEAVES	Alternate, 2-12 x 2 cm, lanceolate, stiff, crinkly with scattered teeth margin toward base, pointed tip;
FLOWERS	Bell-shaped, 1 cm, white or pink, scented with purple tips; white to mauve, on a solitary stem, or in cluster of 2 or 3, in the leaf axils during spring and summer. Flowering Times Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April, May, June
FRUIT	Drupes, 8 mm, round, ovoid, fleshy, purplish red, pink skinned, fleshy tangy flavour covers one large seed; Fruiting Times: Feb, March
BARK	Grey green bark often mat forming; Thick rootstock
TRUNK or STEM	Prostrate groundcover; leaves inserted at acute angle to stem;
ETHNOBOTANY	Bush Food: Edible fruit: white or pink when ripe. Useful groundcover, hanging basket or pot plant. Worthy of cultivation for flowers fruit and foliage; Groundcover, which is slightly frost tender, hardy in well drained relatively dry situation; Plant at 1 m intervals.
BEEES	<i>Euryglossa atra</i>
INSECTS	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Coenotes eremophilae</i> , Fruit fly;
BIRD	mallee ringneck (fl) bustards, plain turkeys (fr), emu (fr), honeyeaters (fr,fl), silvereyes (fr)
BUTTERFLY	<i>Candalides heathi</i> rayed blue
INDIGENOUS USES	Fruit eaten raw by Aborigines; Flowers eaten or sucked to obtain nectar (Meggit 1962) Plant used against venereal diseases.
ID FEATURE	