

Overview

Pomaderris is a genus in the family *Rhamnaceae* – a cosmopolitan family of dicotyledonous plants represented in Australia, America, Europe, Asia and Africa. Worldwide there are about 58 genera containing about 925 species. The *Rhamnaceae* family is among the 20 largest families of flowering plants in Australia and is represented by over 160 species in 17 genera, including *Cryptandra*, *Discaria* and *Spyridium*.

The name of the genus comes from the Greek *poma*, lid, and, *derris*, skin or leather, referring to the membrane-like cover of the capsule. There are about 66 species in Australia (all states except NT). The occurrence is mainly in the eastern states with the majority in NSW and Victoria. They grow in heathland, shrubland, woodland and open forest from near sea-level to about 2200m altitude.

They are shrubs or small trees with hairy young growth. The leaves are simple, alternate and with the undersurface bearing stellate hairs or a mixture of stellate and simple hairs. The stipules are brown and may be shed early. The inflorescence is a small cyme, mainly in terminal panicles or corymbs, sometimes in tight clusters. The flowers are small, whitish to yellow. The sepals are often reflexed. The petals are 5 or can be absent, and may be shed early. The fruit is a capsule, separating into 3 seed-bearing carpels - mericarps.

They are characterised by their abundant and often spectacular cream-yellow flowers produced in terminal panicles in spring. Species diversity is centred in southeast Australia with pockets of high diversity along the Murrumbidgee corridor in the ACT, the Mulloon area of Tallaganda National Park and the Mayfield area of the Shoalhaven. Several species may co-exist in such areas. They are very responsive to fire, showing mass germination after bushfires, and to disturbance, often colonising roadsides after roadbanks are reformed.



Pomaderris sp. 'Bungonia'



Capsules of *P. elliptica* showing the "lid"



Pomaderris intermedia



Roadside colonisation



Regeneration of *P. betulina* after fire