



Flora of Australia

Alectryon Gaertn.

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Australian
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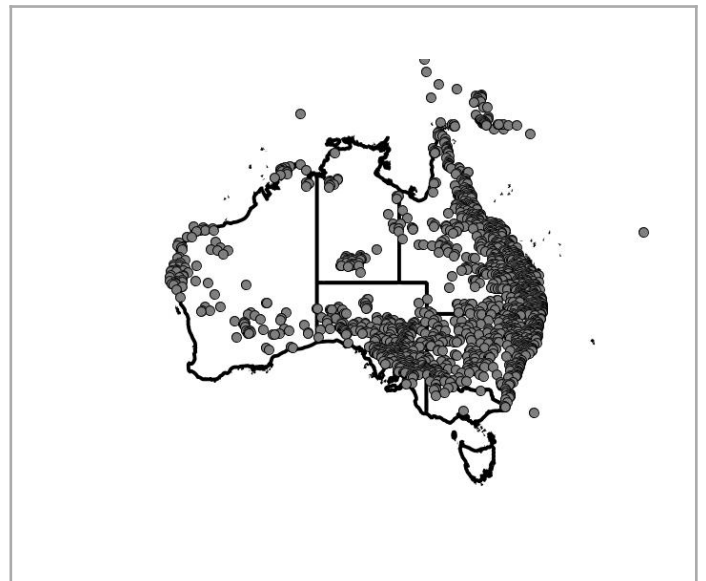
***Alectryon* Gaertn.**

- Gaertner, J (1788), *De Fructibus et Seminibus Plantarum* 1 : 216, t. 46, fig. 2

S.T.Reynolds

Trees, monoecious. Branchlets usually hairy towards apex, lenticellate. Leaves paripinnate; leaflets opposite or alternate, entire serrate, serrulate or denticulate, coriaceous. Inflorescence axillary, raceme-like or paniculate; cymules stalked; bracts ovate, small. Flowers small, regular. Calyx saucer-shaped, shallowly 4-6-lobed, or truncate; lobes ovate, \pm valvate. Petals 4 or 5, or absent, broadly ovate, shortly clawed; scales broad, inflexed, hairy, crestless. Disc complete. Stamens 5-10; filaments filiform, shorter than anthers. Ovary 2-4-locular; 1 ovule per locule; style filiform. Fruit usually 1-4-lobed, the lobes mostly knob-like or globose, turgid, 1-locular, 1-seeded; pericarp mostly thin, drying \pm crustaceous, splitting irregularly. Seed globose, shiny; aril cupular, smooth or granular, red.

Distribution: A genus of c. 30 species, in Hawaii, Philippines, Melanesia, Indonesia, New Caledonia, New Guinea, New Zealand and Australia; the *Flora of Australia* publication listed nine species in Australia, eight of them endemic. Since then the *Australian Plant Census* lists 15 species (including no longer recognising *A. unilobatus*).



Etymology: from the Greek *alectryon* (a cock), possibly because of a comb-like crest on the fruit of some species

Nomenclature and Typification: *Alectryon excelsum* Gaertn.

Notes: The genus is recognisable by the knob-like fruits of most members, the cupular aril and the accrescent leaflets of most species.

Bibliography: L.A.T.Radlkofer, in A.Engler, *Pflanzenr.* 98e: 983-1002 (1933); S.T.Reynolds, *Austrobaileya* 1: 472-481 (1982).

Source: Data derived from *Flora of Australia* Volume 25 (1985), a product of ABRS, ©Commonwealth of Australia

Images



Fig. 1: '*Alectryon subcinereus*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)

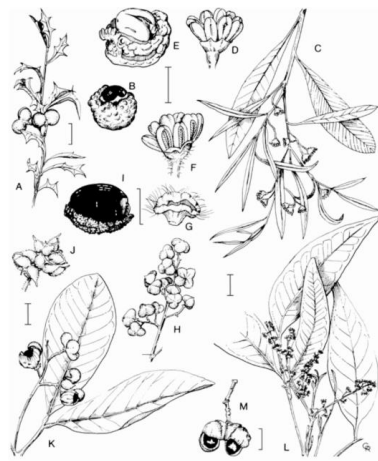


Fig. 2: '*Alectryon coriaceus*' by G.Rankin. (© Commonwealth of Australia)



Fig. 3: '*Alectryon oleifolius*' by Purdie, R.W. (© Purdie, R.W.)



Fig. 4: '*Alectryon forsythii*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)



Fig. 5: '*Alectryon reticulatus*' by Unknown (© Centre for National Biodiversity Research)



Fig. 6: '*Alectryon oleifolius*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)





Fig. 7: '*Alectryon connatus*' by Unknown (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)



Fig. 8: '*Alectryon oleifolius*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)



Fig. 9: '*Alectryon coriaceus*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



Fig. 10: '*Alectryon oleifolius*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)



Fig. 11: '*Alectryon tomentosus*' by Unknown (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)

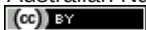


Fig. 12: '*Alectryon oleifolius subsp. oleifolius*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)





Fig. 13: '*Alectryon oleifolius* subsp. *oleifolius*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



Fig. 14: '*Alectryon oleifolius*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)



Fig. 15: '*Alectryon coriaceus*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



Fig. 16: '*Alectryon tropicus*' by Unknown (© Centre for National Biodiversity Research)

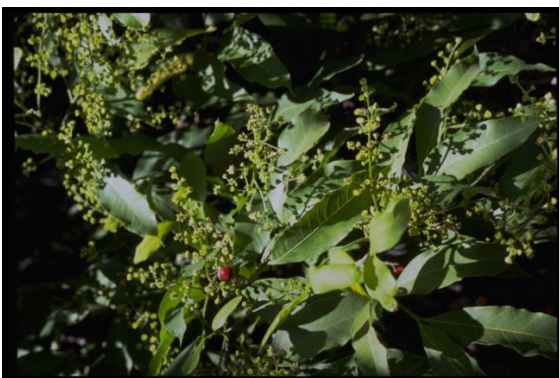


Fig. 17: '*Alectryon subcinereus*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



Fig. 18: '*Alectryon subcinereus*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)

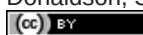




Fig. 19: '*Alectryon tomentosus*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



Fig. 20: '*Alectryon oleifolius* subsp. *elongatus*' by Donaldson, S (© Director of National Parks)



Flora of Australia: vascular plants *Alectryon* key

Modified from: Reynolds, S.T. (1985). *Alectryon*. In: *Flora of Australia* 25. Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra.

1	Leaves simple, sometimes deeply lobed	2
1	Leaves trifoliolate or pinnate or pinnatifid	6
2	Leaves linear, usually 10–30 times as long as wide	<i>Alectryon oleifolius</i>
2	Leaves obovate, cuneate or subelliptic, 2–7 times as long as wide	3
3	Leaves entire; inflorescence raceme-like or panicle-like, to 9 cm long	4
3	Leaves sharply dentate, serrate or laciniately lobed, rarely entire; flowers in small raceme-like inflorescence to 2.5 cm long or in small clusters, rarely solitary	5
4	Branchlets appressed hairy; leaves glabrous or silky; fruit stipitate, 0.8–1.2 cm diam.	<i>Alectryon oleifolius</i>
4	Branchlets with short spreading hairs; leaves glabrous; fruit sessile, 1.6–2.8 cm diam.	<i>Alectryon tropicus</i>
5	Branchlets and fruits puberulous or glabrous; leaves 1.5–5.5 cm long, 0.4–1.5 cm wide	<i>Alectryon diversifolius</i>
5	Branchlets and fruits densely pubescent; leaves 3.5–9 cm long, 1.5–4.5 cm wide	<i>Alectryon pubescens</i>
6	Petals present; aril smooth	7
6	Petals usually absent; aril granular	9
7	Branchlets crispate hairy; fruit 3- or 4-sulcate with inflated lobes; pericarp chartaceous	<i>Alectryon connatus</i>
7	Branchlets without crispate hairs; fruit with 1–4 knob-like or globose lobes; pericarp crustaceous	8
8	Leaflets 2–4, opposite, glaucous below; fruit pubescent, usually 3- or 4-lobed	<i>Alectryon coriaceus</i>
8	Leaflets 4–8, alternate, not glaucous below; fruit glabrous, usually 2-lobed	<i>Alectryon subcinereus</i>
9	Leaflets serrate, dentate, serrulate or denticulate	12
9	Leaflets entire	10

10	Leaflets 4–8, alternate; fruit 1-lobed, 1-locular	<i>Alectryon reticulatus</i>	
10	Leaflets 2–4, opposite; fruit 2- or 3-lobed, lobes 1-locular; or not lobed, 2- or 3-locular		11
11	Fruit compressed, glabrous, lobed; branchlets glabrescent with straight hairs	<i>Alectryon forsythii</i>	
11	Fruit turgid, velvety, not lobed; branchlets tomentose to puberulous with crispate hairs	<i>Alectryon kimberleyanus</i>	
12	Fruit velvety, indistinctly lobed or not lobed; pericarp drying thick, ±woody		13
12	Fruit rusty villous, usually with 2 or 3 knob-like lobes; pericarp drying thin, ±crustaceous		14
13	Leaflets 1 or 2 pairs, dentate; fruit not lobed; indumentum of crispate hairs	<i>Alectryon kimberleyanus</i>	
13	Leaflets 2–4 pairs, serrulate or denticulate; fruit lobed; indumentum of straight hairs	<i>Alectryon subdentatus</i>	
14	Fruit with apical appendage; leaflets broadly oblong; obovate to elliptic, less than half as long as wide, remotely denticulate	<i>Alectryon repandodentatus</i>	
14	Fruit without apical appendage; leaflets narrowly ovate-oblong or elliptic, twice as long as wide, obtuse, acute or acuminate, serrulate or serrate	<i>Alectryon tomentosus</i>	

