



46 * BERBERIDACEAE ¹

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Evergreen or deciduous shrubs or small trees, rarely perennial herbs. Leaves alternate or rarely opposite or basal, entire to pinnate or ternate; stipules small or absent. Inflorescence a panicle or raceme, or flowers solitary. Flowers bisexual. Perianth in 2–6 whorls, each of 3 segments; outer whorl smaller, sepaloid, inner with nectaries and sometimes regarded as petaloid staminodes. Stamens (4–)6(–18), usually opening by 2 valves hinged at the apex. Ovary unilocular, ovules 1-numerous; stigma sessile or on a short style. Fruit a berry or occasionally dry and dehiscent or indehiscent.

A family of about 16 genera and 550 species found in Eurasia, Africa and the Americas. Several species of *Berberis* L., *Mahonia* Nutt. and *Epimedium* L. are cultivated as ornamentals. 3 genera and 5 species are naturalized in Australia. The Berberidaceae are placed in the Ranunculales and are related to the Ranunculaceae (cosmopolitan) and Menispermaceae (mostly pantropical) (see Stevens 2007 & references cited therein).

Key reference: Morley (2007).

External resources: accepted names with synonymy & distribution in Australia (APC); author & publication abbreviations (IPNI); mapping (AVH, NVA); nomenclature (APNI, IPNI).

1. Leaves simple; branches spiny

1 Berberis

1: Leaves pinnate; branches spineless

Mahonia ⁺

⁺ *Mahonia aquifolium* (Pursh) Nutt. (native to North America) is naturalized in South Australia and New South Wales (including the A.C.T.), and sparingly naturalized in Victoria (see also Morley 2007). It has been collected along a road in the Tasmanian Central Highlands.

1 * BERBERIS

Berberis L., *Sp. Pl.* 1: 330 (1753).

Shrubs, evergreen or deciduous with yellow wood, usually with 3–5 partite axillary spines which are the modified basal leaves of long shoots. Leaves alternate, entire, margins often spiny. Inflorescence axillary, racemose, fasciculate or paniculate. Perianth segments in 4–5 whorls, the outer sepaloid, the inner petaloid with basal nectaries. Stamens 6. Fruit a few-seeded berry.

A genus of about 500 species in Europe, northern Africa, southern Asia and America. In Australia 2 or 3 species are occasionally naturalised.

1 * *Berberis darwinii* Hook., *Hooker's Icon. Pl.* 7: t. 672 (1844)

Darwin's Barberry

Illustrations: Spencer, *Horticultural Flora of South-eastern Australia* 1: 71 (1997); Walsh, *Fl. Victoria* 3: 65, fig. 14a-d (1996); Harden, *Fl. New South Wales* 1, rev. edn: 168 (2000); Richardson *et al.*, *Weeds of the South-East, an Identification Guide for Australia* 168 (2006); Morley, *Fl. Australia* 2 360, fig. 68e-l (2007).

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² (deceased) formerly Tasmanian Herbarium, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, Private Bag 4, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia.

Evergreen shrub to 4 m high, branches rusty-pubescent; axillary spines 5-lobed, pubescent, the lobes up to 5 mm long, not pungent. Leaves subsessile, in clusters of 3–7, obovate-cuneate, 1–4 cm long, 6–20 mm wide, leathery, adaxial surface shining, abaxial surface dull, margins thickened, apex with 3 pungent spines, margins entire or with 1–4 spine-tipped teeth on each side. Inflorescence a pendulous raceme, axis, bracts and pedicels reddish; pedicels 5–15 mm long. Outer perianth segments reddish, 2–4 mm long, ovate; inner segments, orange–yellow 4–7 mm long, obovate. Stamens slightly shorter than the innermost perianth segments. Berry purple-black, 6–9 mm long, ellipsoid, pruinose; fruiting style conspicuous. Flowering Sep.-Nov.; fruiting ?

Tas. (BEL, TSE, TWE); also naturalized in NSW, Vic.; native to Chile, Argentina. A garden ornamental that is occasionally naturalized on the foothills of Mt Wellington and from near Nabowla and Queenstown.

REFERENCES

- APC (Australian Plant Census) <http://www.chah.gov.au/apc/about-APC.html>
 APNI (Australian Plant Name Index) <http://www.anbg.gov.au/cgi-bin/apni>
 AVH (Australia's Virtual Herbarium) (Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria) <http://www.anbg.gov.au/avh.html>
 IPNI (International Plant Name Index) <http://www.ipni.org/index.html> or <http://www.us.ipni.org/index.html>
 Morley BD (2007) Berberidaceae (less *Nandina*). *Flora of Australia* **2** 357–362.
 NVA (Natural Values Atlas) (Department of Primary Industries and Water: Hobart) <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LJEM-6TV6TV?open>
 Stevens PF (2007) Angiosperm Phylogeny Website. Version 7, May 2006. <http://www.mobot.org/MOBOT/research/APweb>
 NOTE: Web addresses can and do change: a list of current web addresses will be maintained on the *Flora of Tasmania Online* website [www.tmag.tas.gov.au/floratasmania].

INDEX

B	
Barberry	1
Berberidaceae	1
<i>Berberis</i>	1
<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	1
D	
Darwin's Barberry	1
E	
<i>Epimedium</i>	1
M	
<i>Mahonia</i>	1
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	1
Menispermaceae	1
R	
Ranunculaceae	1
Ranunculales	1