

COMMON NAME

WESTERN ROSEWOOD

SCIENTIFIC NAME *Alectryon oleifolius* (formerly *Heterodendrum oleifolium*)

FAMILY SAPINDACEAE

CATEGORY NATIVE TREE

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

- Small tree to 8 m in height with a spreading canopy and rough, deeply fissured, pale grey or brown bark
- Leaves stiff, narrow, greyish green with a prominent mid-vein, 3–15 cm long, 5–20 mm wide
- Flowers small and cream, forming a two-lobed fruit about 6 mm across; each lobe has one seed. Fruit splits at maturity to reveal glossy black seeds with fleshy red appendages (arils)



subspecies *elongatus*

WHERE IT GROWS & WHY:

- Widespread in open woodland in semi-arid areas of western NSW, often on soils with limestone at depth
- Subspecies *elongatus* tends to be found on heavier soils and occurs as scattered trees
- Subspecies *canescens* prefers sandier soils, suckers freely and commonly occurs in small clumps; often grows in association with belah



subspecies *canescens*

MANAGEMENT/SIGNIFICANCE:

- Provides useful drought forage with reasonable crude protein and phosphorus levels
- Stock poisoning can occur, with sheep more susceptible than cattle; poisoning is most likely from young leaves in summer, if stock are hungry or stressed, and leaves are wet with dew or rain
- Useful for shade and shelter
- Timber is hard and heavy but has limited use



Fruits splitting to reveal red arils on seeds
Photos: P Milthorpe & M Wynne