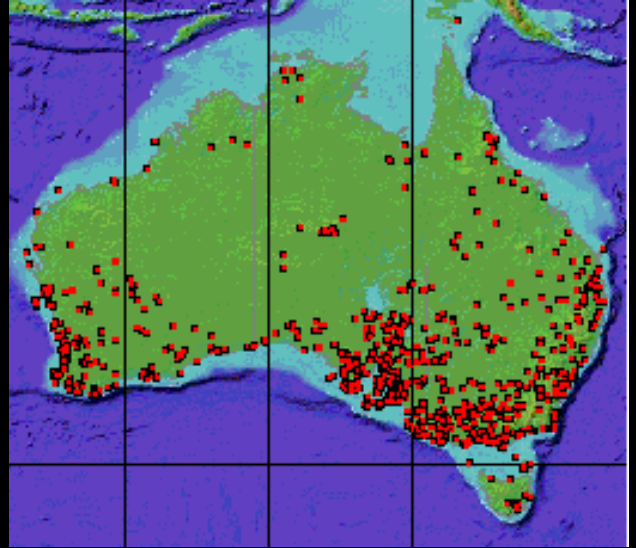


Blackberry Nightshade

Solanum Nigrum



Courtesy of Australian virtual herbarium

Description: Blackberry Nightshade is an erect herb or small short-lived bushy shrub to 1 m high. The leaves are 2-7.5 cm long, entire or very shallowly lobed. The flowers are white, in short-stalked clusters of 4-12 flowers.

As A Soil Indicator: Low Calcium, Very low Phosphorus, Very high Potassium Very high Magnesium, High Manganese, High Iron, High Sulfate, High Boron, High Chlorine, High Selenium , Low humus in the soil , Anaerobic bacteria dominate Compacted soils, High Aluminum levels

Life cycle: Annual or rarely perennial herb or small shrub. Germination occurs mainly in spring and summer. Flowering occurs 5-9 weeks after germination and continues until the plant dies. Plant death is usually determined by environmental conditions rather than age and drought, cold or frost kills them. In some environments they behave as annuals and in milder conditions they act as perennials.

Beneficial: Mature fruit used for jam. Used as a herb. Used in dyes in preserved fruits.

Detrimental: It is an alternate host for diseases including anthracnose, Cercospora, blight, leaf spot and powdery mildew, at least 13 nematodes, 3 bacterial diseases, 7 fungal diseases including Rhizoctonia and over 30 crop viruses.

Toxicity: The plant does not appear to be toxic at all times, and toxicity may be restricted to certain stages of growth, be influenced by particular growing conditions, or be a characteristic of only certain strains of what is a somewhat variable species. Immature fruit should be treated as toxic