

# The Urrbrae Wetland

# Sticky Hop-bush

## Dodonaea viscosa

### Indigenous Plant Trail

The Urrbrae wetland indigenous plant trail consists of a number of provenance plants that were used by Aboriginal People for food, medicine, fiber and tools.

Each of these plants is marked with a small sign, containing information about the traditional uses and cultural importance of the plant.

*Kurana people have been consulted throughout this project, however the majority of information printed here and on the signs is from published resources.*

**Do NOT pick or remove any plant material.**

### Education @ the wetland

Groups are welcome to take a self-guided tour of the Indigenous Plant Trail. An activity booklet is provided, that encourages students observe, record and analyse the types of local plants that assisted the Aboriginal people to live successfully and sustainably for 1000'S of years.

To plan your visit, please contact the Wetland Manager or visit the Urrbrae Wetland Website [www.urrbraewetlandlc.org](http://www.urrbraewetlandlc.org)

**Description:** This shrub has numerous subspecies that were once widespread over the Adelaide Plain. Sticky hop-bush varies in size, with mature plants reaching a height of 4m.

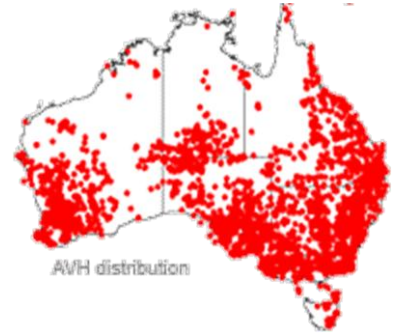
Sticky hop-bush has green, shiny leaves that have a slightly sticky texture. The shape of the leaves is what separates the different subspecies.

The flowers are very small and hard to see, however they soon develop into masses of reddish or purple hop like fruits with four 'wings'.

The fruit begins to split when ripe (normally during the summer months) and contain a small, black, round seed (2mm in diameter).

**Aboriginal Uses:** The smoke from sticky hop-bush was thought to be used by Aboriginal people for pain relief.

In the Dreaming Story of Tjilbruke, Tjilbruke's nephew Kulultuwi had been killed near the Sturt River at Marion. His body was taken to a place near Brighton, where he was smoked and dried in accordance with ancient tradition. It is thought that the smoke was produced using the leaves from the sticky hop-bush.



Distribution Map [1]



**Other Uses:** The 'hops' were used by early settlers for beer brewing.

### References

[1] Australian National Botanic Gardens (2009) 'Dodonea viscosa', Australian Government, <http://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2007/dodonaea-viscosa.html>

Australian Government National Water Commission, *Groundwater Stories from the Dreamtime: Tjilbruke and the Coastal Springs (SA)*, Wetlocks [http://www.wetlocks.com.au/media/files/resources/state/11-CS19\\_Aboriginal\\_Dreamtime\\_SA1.pdf](http://www.wetlocks.com.au/media/files/resources/state/11-CS19_Aboriginal_Dreamtime_SA1.pdf)

Bagust, P & Tout-Smith, L (2010) 'The Native Plants of Adelaide: Returning the vanishing natural heritage of the Adelaide plains to your garden', Government of South Australia's Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

Bonney, N (1994) 'What Seed is that?', Finsbury Press Pty. Ltd., Adelaide, South Australia.



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Do not pick or eat native plants as removal of plant material as some plants contain poisonous substances.

### Contact

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