

Kangaroo Apple

Solanum aviculare

What is it?

A medium sized, fast-growing evergreen shrub up to 4m in height, with glossy, large, dark green leaves with 2-6 deep pointed lobes, *Solanum aviculare* also has clusters of violet flowers on green or purple stems in spring which are pollinated by insects. Oval shaped fruits are pale green and change colour from yellow to red as the ripen in late summer and contain soft pulp with many seeds. The berries are poisonous when unripe, and being part of the nightshade family, is often used in the pharmaceutical companies in drug manufacture.



Where do they occur?

It is found throughout the eastern states of Australia, but also in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, normally in sheltered forests and rainforest margins. Due to its fast growing nature, *Solanum aviculare* is often considered a weed in certain areas.

