

## *Duboisia myoporoides*

### **Common name:**

Corkwood,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Seldom eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

High risk.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Cattle, sheep, horses, camels and pigs.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Tropane alkaloids.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Dullness,
- . Trembling,
- . Muscular weakness,
- . Colic and scours,
- . Staggering and convulsions.
- . Disturbances of the eyesight, dilation of the pupils.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Death within twelve hours in some cases, but many recover with no long term effects.

*Treatment;*

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.
- . As for atropine poisoning.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Don't allow stock access to these plants when other feed is scarce, especially regrowth.

### **Comments:**

- . A shrub or small tree, up to ten metres high, of the nightshade family, spread by root suckers.
- . Bark is corky, furrowed, pale grey/brown, and bitter to the taste.
- . Leaves are alternate, long and narrow, flabby, spirally, on long twigs, tapered at both ends.

- . Flowers are white, star-like, with small purple stripes, in clusters, at the end of the branches.
- . Small green calyx, at the base of the tube, expanding into five petals.
- . The fruit is a black, globular, succulent berry.
- . Found on the coast and tablelands of NSW, as well as central and coastal Queensland.
- . Found in high rainfall areas near rain forests, up to 1000m altitude, and also in rainforest regrowth areas.
- . These plants are generally avoided, but hungry stock, or animals new to the area may eat them.
- . Sheep seem to be less affected than other animals.
- . Most animals seem to find these leaves unpalatable.
- . Leaves are harvested commercially, and exported for extraction of alkaloids, mainly scopolamine, and hyocine. Workers handling the leaves have been affected with dry throat, headache and loss of visual acuity.
- . The toxicity seems to vary with the locality and stage of growth.



Picture: *Duboisia myoporoides* Wikipedia

### **Further Reading:**

- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants, Field Guide. Qld DPI. 1993.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants Handbook. 1983
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.