



INDIGENOUS GARDEN

*Leptospermum
trinervium*
(Flakey Bark Tea Tree)

Indigenous use

The aboriginal people of Australia have traditionally used tea tree oil as an antiseptic and an herbal medicine.

Description

Shrub or small tree, 2–5 m high, bark in thin flaking layers, younger stems pubescent. Leaves broad-ovate to very narrow-elliptic and falcate, 10–20 mm long, 1–6 mm wide, silky, glabrescent; apex rounded to acuminate, point blunt; base tapering or rounded; shortly petiolate.

It has prominent flaky-papery bark that is shed in thin, flaking strips – a useful identification feature.



Habitat

It is a very common shrub in sandstone environs, and has a large distribution, growing from the south-east region of Victoria (between Mallacoota and Orbost), north along the coast and tablelands subdivisions of NSW (extending just into the western slopes), up as far as Rockhampton in Qld.