



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Manning yellow solanum

Solanum sulphureum

Endangered

The Manning yellow solanum (*Solanum sulphureum*) is an endangered perennial shrub, with known populations confined to lowland rainforest and wet sclerophyll areas in the Taree – Wingham region, on the mid north coast of New South Wales.

The Manning yellow solanum lives in sunny clearings within rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest. It can also be found at the edges of regrowth on pasture land.

The shrub grows approximately 90 centimetres – 3.2 metres in height, with rusty-brown coloured branches which are densely covered with hairs, and sparsely armed with prickles.

The few purple flowers have bright yellow anthers. The ball-shaped fruit are a striking sulphur yellow and approximately two centimetres in diameter. The adult leaves are entire and oval-shaped. These features distinguish the species from other *Solanum* species found on the north coast of New South Wales.

It should be noted that there is a similarity in appearance between this endangered native species and the noxious weed, tropical soda apple *Solanum viarum*, leading to misidentification as a weed. This misidentification can lead to the plants' removal during routine land management practices.

The Manning yellow solanum is also vulnerable to the invasion of its habitat by weeds and by the browsing and trampling of stock.

***Solanum sulphureum* is commonly called the Manning yellow solanum. Around Taree, it is also known as the Taree nightshade**

This species was only described botanically, in 2009, although it was first collected from the Port Macquarie region in 1892

Its botanical name describes the colour of the fruit – a sulphur yellow

Endemic to New South Wales

Similar in appearance to tropical soda apple, *Solanum viarum*, a noxious weed

Support local action and help save the Manning yellow solanum



The spikey leaves and stems of *Solanum sulphureum*.
Photo: Mark Cameron/DPIE



The beautiful purple flower of *Solanum sulphureum*.
Photo: Paul Segal.



Fruit of *Solanum sulphureum*, with a ruler indicating size.
Photos: Paul Segal.

Greater understanding of this species and its occurrence is required, to avoid mistaken identity and accidental removal of the plants.

The NSW Government's Biodiversity Conservation Trust encourages and supports landholders to conserve and manage biodiversity on private land. You can find out more on their website: www.bct.nsw.gov.au

Additional grants that assist landholders to protect native vegetation on private land may also be available through Local Land Services and Landcare organisations.

If you are keen to know about volunteering and research projects related to threatened species, you can find more information on our website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/help-save-our-threatened-species

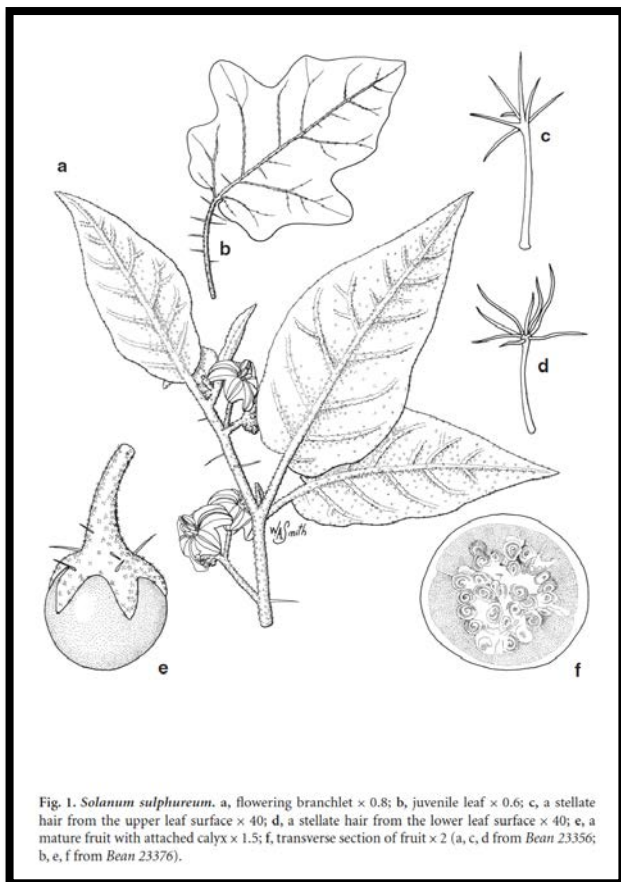


Fig. 1. *Solanum sulphureum*. a, flowering branchlet $\times 0.8$; b, juvenile leaf $\times 0.6$; c, a stellate hair from the upper leaf surface $\times 40$; d, a stellate hair from the lower leaf surface $\times 40$; e, a mature fruit with attached calyx $\times 1.5$; f, transverse section of fruit $\times 2$ (a, c, d from Bean 23356; b, e, f from Bean 23376).

Saving our Species is a NSW Government flagship program targeting on-ground action to secure threatened plants and animals from extinction. The program aims to increase the number of species that can survive securely in the wild.

Saving our Species can only succeed if we work together. We need your support to ensure that today's actions help to secure the future of NSW's threatened species.

To find out more about threatened species in New South Wales and the Saving our Species program: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS

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