

## *Heterodendrum oleifolium*

### **Common name:**

Rosewood, Boonery, Bullock bush,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

High at all stages.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Moderate risk.

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

Can be toxic to all grazing livestock.  
Sheep are more affected than cattle when under stress.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Cyanogenetic glycosides,  
(cyanide, prussic acid).

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Muscle tremors,
- . Paddling legs,
- . Prostration,
- . Rapid pulse,
- . Difficulty in breathing.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Death within hours.

*Treatment;*

None.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

### **Comments:**

- . A tree up to 7 m high, sometimes smaller and shrubby, sometimes suckering from the roots.
- . Bark is dark, grey, fissured, and broken into rough flakes.
- . Sapwood is yellow, and the heart wood is reddish brown.

. Leaves are alternate, long, pale dull green and velvety, veins are well marked, may have fine hairs.

. Flowers are small, cream and inconspicuous, occurring spring to summer.

. Fruits are pale green, in clusters, seeds are glossy black, with a red fleshy lump.

. Found in all mainland states, in semi arid regions, on a variety of soils.

. Most toxic in summer, least in winter, the new leaves are more toxic.

. A useful fodder tree during drought, provided other feed is available.

. Most mortalities occur with traveling stock.

. Mortalities are greater when leaves are wet with dew or light rain.

. No mortalities in horses have been reported.

. Sheep and cattle seem to be the worst affected.



Picture: *Heterodendrum oleifolium*  
Alicesprings.nt.gov.au

### **Further Reading:**

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Cunningham, Mulham, Millthorpe and Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 1999.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants. Handbook.1983.