

Who Am I?

I have quite a short trunk or bole which will only grow to about 15 metres; grey-brown, corky, furrowed bark and relatively few branches.



My flowers provide nectar for many insects and my berries are eaten by birds and mammals. Many moth caterpillars feed on my leaves

In winter you can recognise me by my green, unpleasant-smelling twigs which are hollow or have a white pith (spongy tissue) inside. My buds have a ragged appearance, often with leaves showing through the bud scales.



Borne on large, flat umbels, or clusters, 10–30cm across, my individual flowers are creamy-coloured, highly scented, and have five petals.



Each flower develops into a small, purple-black berry, which ripens from late-summer to autumn.

My flowers are used to make cordials and teas and my berries to make preserves and wine



My leaves are pinnate, or feather shaped, with 5–7 oval and toothed leaflets which smell unpleasant when touched or bruised.

