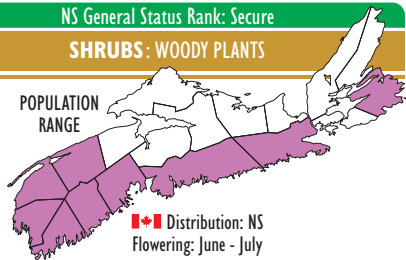


Inkberry

Ilex glabra

NS General Status Rank: Secure

SHRUBS : WOODY PLANTS

POPULATION
RANGE

 Distribution: NS
 Flowering: June - July



© DAVID PATRIQUIN, NOVA SCOTIA WILD FLORA SOCIETY



Leaf

© ALAIN BELLIVEAU



Ripe, black fruits

© ANNE MILLS



Female flowers in leaf axils

© ALAIN BELLIVEAU



Cluster of male flowers

© DAVID PATRIQUIN



Immature, green fruits

© MEGAN CROWLEY

SIZE: 1-3 m tall.

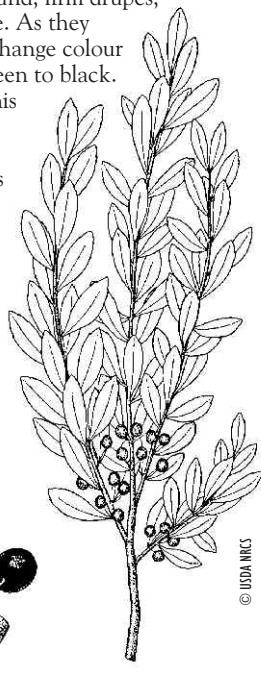
LEAVES: Leathery, evergreen, inversely lance-shaped, and 2-5 cm long. They have a shiny upper surface, 1-3 teeth on each side near the tip, and are alternately arranged on the stem.

STEM: Greyish brown except new growth which is green. Twigs, especially new growth, may have short, coarse hairs on them.

FLOWERS: White with 6-8 petals. The male (staminate) flowers are in clusters and the female (pistillate) flowers are singular and located where the leaf attaches to the stem (axil).

FRUIT: Round, firm drupes, 4-5 mm wide. As they ripen, they change colour from pale green to black.

NOTES: This species is dioecious, which means it has only male or only female flowers on an individual plant.



© USDA NRC

Habitat:

Wetlands (bogs, swamps), lakeshores, and rocky barrens.

Interesting point: Part of this species scientific name *glabra* translates to “smooth” and refers to the smooth upper surface of the leaves. In NS, this is the only species in the Holly family that retains its leaves all winter.

Similar Species: None.