Berberis glaucocarpa

Family: Berberidaceae

Species: *Berberis glaucocarpa* Stapf (NGRP, 2002)

Common Names: barberry, great barberry, berbere

Synonyms: None provided

Bayer Code: BEBGL

Description: A spiny, woody, evergreen or semi-deciduous shrub up to 3 m high. Spines, single or three-pronged up to 2 cm long occur in each leaf axil. Leaves are elliptical to ovate, up to 8 cm long x 3 cm wide with spiny teeth. Corolla and calyx yellow 5–7 mm across with an unpleasant smell in dense, drooping clusters up to 6 cm long. Fruits are fleshy berries about 10 mm long, purplish with a white waxy bloom.

Figure 1. *Berberis glaucocarpa* from Roy et al. (1998)

Distribution: *Berberis glaucocarpa* is native to India and Nepal and has naturalized in New Zealand (NGRP, 2009, Webb et al., 1988).

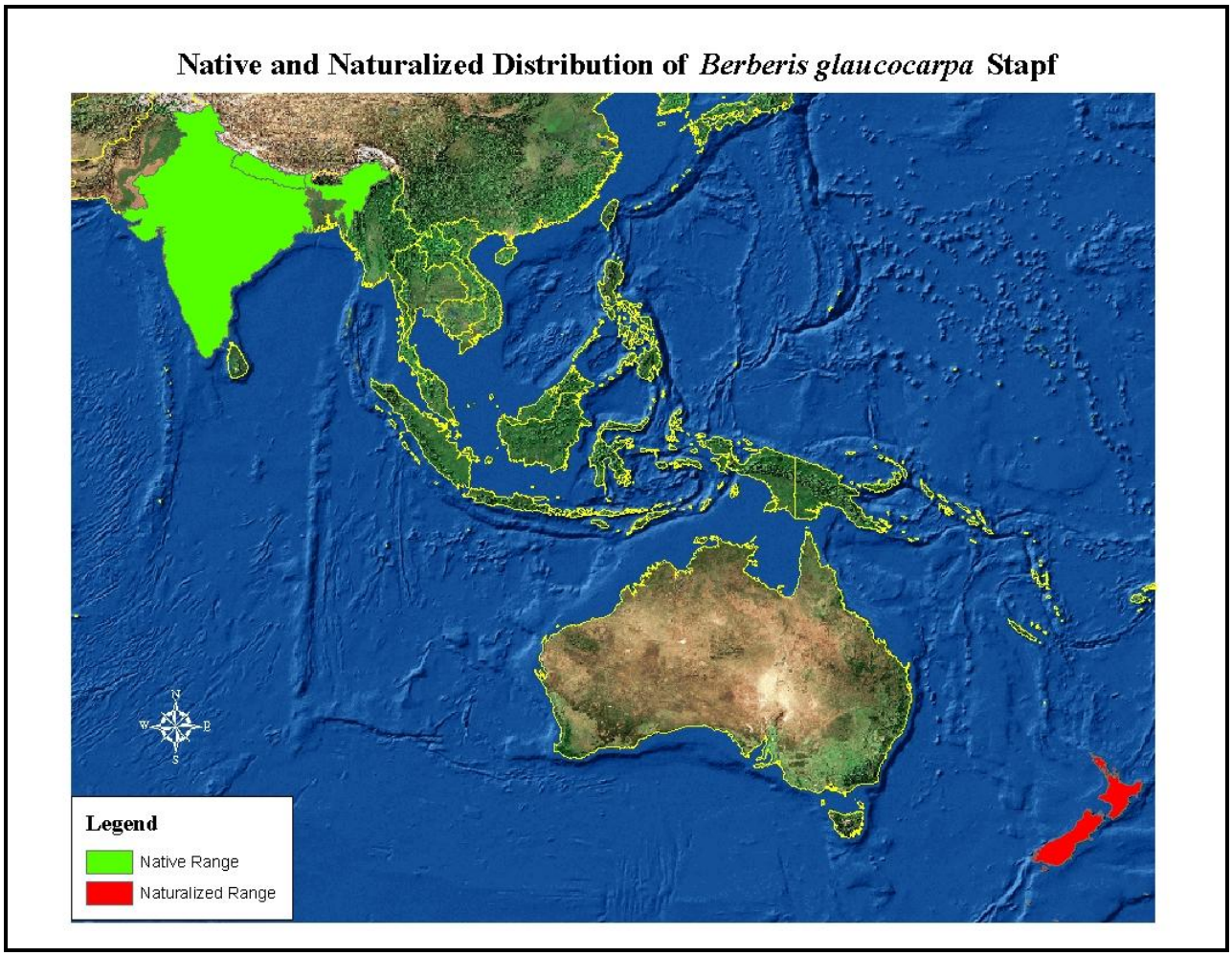

Figure 2. By Glenn Fowler, USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST, 2002 (Fowler, 2002)

Biology and Ecology: Occurs naturally in forest margins but may also flourish in scrub or on waste ground. Flowering occurs from October to November in New Zealand. Fruits are dispersed by birds.

Possible Pathways to the United States: It is widely grown as a garden ornamental and hedge plant outside of the United States. Plants and seeds of *Berberis* species are prohibited from the United States to prevent the introduction of black stem rust, *Puccinia graminis*. The highest risk of introduction is from deliberate introduction as an ornamental. It is readily availability from websites in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. In New Zealand, where *Berberis glaucocarpa* has become very widely naturalized, there is profuse seeding and seed dispersal by birds.

Adverse Impact: It is listed as a plant of concern as an environmental weed in New Zealand (Owen, 1996) and could presumably present a similar threat in many parts of the United States.

Literature Cited:

Fowler, G. 2002. Distribution Map. USDA, APHIS, PPQ, Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, Raleigh, NC.

NGRP. 2002. World Economic Plants in GRIN (Germplasm Resources Information Network). United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Resources Service, National Germplasm Resources Program (NGRP). Beltsville. Last accessed 2009.

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Roy, B., I. Popay, P. Champion, T. James, and A. Rahman (eds.). 1998. An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand. New Zealand Plant Protection Society. 282 pp.

Webb, C. J., W. R. Sykes, and P. J. Garnock-Jones. 1988. The Flora of New Zealand Volume IV. Naturalized Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. DSIR Botany Division, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 pp.