**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.

![Image of Berberis glaucocarpa](image.jpg)

**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).

![Native and Naturalized Distribution of Berberis glaucocarpa Stapf](image)

**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.


