

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem (var. *xiphoclada*). Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Near Port Arthur Historic site, Tas



Flowering plants (var. *xiphoclada*). Photographer Don Wood, west of Cobargo

## Common name

Broom Spurge

## Family

Euphorbiaceae

## Where found

**Forest**, **woodland**, and **heath**. Coast, ranges, and the eastern part of the tablelands.

## Notes

**Shrub** to 0.9 m high. Stems rigid, angular. Sometimes leafless. Leaves, when present, **alternating** up the stems, the lower leaves 0.5–2.5 cm long, margins often toothed. Upper leaves **linear**, scale-like, usually less than 1 cm long, margins **entire**. Male and female flowers usually on the same plant, sometimes male and female flowers on different plants. Male flowers with 4 or 5 '**petals**', female flowers with 5 '**petals**'. Flowers 2–3 mm long. Flowers clustered at the **nodes**, surrounded by small brown **bracts**; males often numerous, females single or surrounded by a few male flowers.

PlantNET description of species and key to varieties: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nsfwl&lvl=sp&name=Amperea~xiphoclada> (accessed 3 January, 2021)

**var. papillata**: Ridges along at least the lower parts of the stems warty. Leaves to 0.7 cm long, upper surface and lower **midrib** warty. All flowers more or less stalkless.

**var. pedicellata**: Leaves to 1 cm long. Most female flowers with stalks 1–13 mm long.

Known only from the original collection in 1892 from Sydney.

Extinct Australia. Presumed Extinct NSW. Provisions of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 No 63 relating to the protection of protected plants generally also apply to plants that are a threatened species.

NSW Threatened Species profile: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=20224> (accessed 3 January, 2021)

**var. xiphoclada**: Ridges along stems smooth, or irregularly sparsely warty. Leaves to 2.5 cm long, both surfaces smooth. All flowers more or less stalkless.

Author: Betty Wood.

This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:



Android edition



iOS edition

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