

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Mirosa Rocks National Park north of Tathra



Flowers and leaves. Photographer Don Wood, Yalwal Rd west of Nowra

Common name

Variable bossiaea

Family

Fabaceae

Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, **heath**, and other **habitats**. Coast, ranges, and tablelands, mainly north from Batemans Bay.

Notes

Shrub to about 1 m tall. Stems moderately compressed to flat, occasionally with narrow **wings**, hairy to hairless, often **glaucous**. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 0.4-3 cm long, 1.5-6 mm wide (**juvenile** leaves to 20 mm wide), often variable in shape on the same plant; oval to almost **linear**, margins flat or curved to rolled upwards. Some plants have round (juvenile) leaves near the base of the plant. Flowers 7-15 mm long, pea shaped, with 5 **petals**, 2 joined together to form the **keel**. Front of **standard** petal yellow with a red flare, back mostly flushed pink, wings yellow or flushed pink, keel pink grading to dark red. Flowers Autumn to Winter.

Rare Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Bossiaea-heterophylla> (accessed 5 January, 2020)

Description partly based on Thompson, I.R., (2012) A revision of eastern Australian *Bossiaea* (Fabaceae: Bossiadeae). *Muelleria* 30(2): 149-150

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