

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Shepherds Lookout, ACT



Flowering plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, near Warrnambool, Vic



Rosette. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer JMDTomaso, California, USA

## Common name

Slender thistle

## Family

Asteraceae

## Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, **shrubland**, pastures, roadsides, wasteland and cultivation, and rocky sites. Widespread.

## Notes

**Introduced annual** herb to 2 m high, initially forming a basal **rosette**. Stems grooved, initially **cobwebby**, sometimes almost hairless, with spiny **wings**. Wings more or less discontinuous, and broken into spiny lobes to 5 mm wide. Leaves with spiny margins. Flower **heads** surrounded by spiny **bracts**. Basal leaves 5–25 cm long, 20–80 mm wide, upper surface green and hairy, lower surface white and cobwebby, deeply **dissected**. Stem leaves similar, **alternating** up the stems, 5–15 cm long, 20–70 mm wide. Flower heads cylindrical, to about 20 mm long. **Florets** 10–17 mm long, purple-pink. Flower heads in clusters of 1–4. Flowering: Oct.–Nov.

Pest plant ACT. Noxious weed Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Carduus~pycnocephalus> (accessed 7 January, 2021)

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