

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



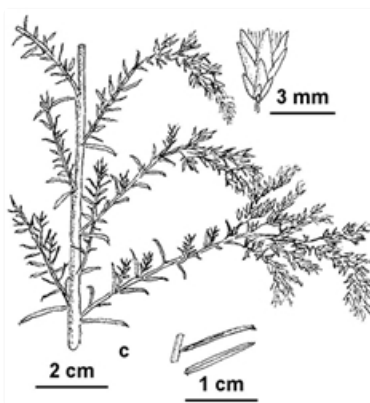
Flowering stem. Photographer Don Wood, near Nowra



Flowering stems. Photographer Jackie Miles, Goulburn



Shrub. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Murrumbidgee River, ACT



Line drawings. c. flowering branch; flower head; leaf. E Beckett, University of Oxford, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board, Melbourne, Vic

Common name

Sifton bush, Chinese shrub, Drooping cassinia

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Wide variety of **habitats** including dry **forest**, **woodland**, grassy areas, disturbed areas, and flood plains. Widespread mainly north from the ACT. **Introduced** to the ACT.

Probably originally of very restricted distribution on the Central Western Slopes north of the area covered by this key. It became weedy during the NSW gold rushes.

Notes

Shrub to 2 m tall. Bark on old **shrubs** rough. Older branches with a grey to reddish-brown smooth bark, slightly flaky. Young twigs green (rarely reddish), with prominent leaf-base scars, sparsely to moderately densely hairy with white **cottony** hairs. Leaves curry-smelling, **alternating** up the stems, 0.35-1.5 cm long, 0.5-1 mm wide, sticky, upper surface hairless, lower surface hairy with **glandular** hairs, margins flat to curved down, tips pointed. Flower **heads** 2-4 mm long, greenish-white when young and fresh, becoming deep red to pale brown, sometimes almost purplish, at maturity, cylindrical to top-shaped or bell-shaped, each with 1-3 **florets**, 0 **petals**, in dense to loose clusters 90-180 mm long, of 50-200 flower heads, often one sided and drooping when young. Flowers Spring to Autumn.

According to the Orchard paper as cited below, *Cassinia arcuata* only occurs naturally in western Victoria, SA, and WA. The species at present known as *Cassinia arcuata* in NSW is a previously unnamed species, named in that paper *Cassinia sifton*.

The proposed name *Cassinia sifton* has not yet been approved by the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (accessed 13 April 2021).

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW (as *Cassinia arcuata*). Always check native vegetation requirements before undertaking control of a weedy native plant.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Cassinia~sifton>
(accessed 13 April 2021)

The description above is partly based on Orchard, A.E. (2017), A revision of *Cassinia* (Asteraceae: Gnaphalieae) in Australia. 7. *Cassinia* subgenus *Achromolaena*. *Australian Systematic Botany* 30(4): 358-363, Figs 15, 16, 17 (map).

Author: Betty Wood.



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