

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Stems with male cones. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Stems with mature cones. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Calperum near Renmark, SA



Tree. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Calperum near Renmark, SA

## Common name

Belah, Muurrugu

## Family

Casuarinaceae

## Where found

Dry **forest**, **shrubland**, **woodland**, and **grassland**. Western Slopes.

## Notes

Tree to 20 m tall, frequently producing suckers. Bark finely fissured, scaly. Leaves very small, forming **whorls** of 8-12 teeth on the branchlets, each 0.05–0.07 cm long, soon withering. **Articles** ridged, hairless, occasionally sparsely hairy, somewhat waxy, drooping in vigorous specimens, **erect** in depauperate specimens, 8–17 mm long, 0.6–0.9 mm in diameter, breaking off readily. Male and female flowers on different trees. Flowers small, cream to yellow or red to brown, male flowers with 1-2 '**petals**', female flowers with 0 **petals**. Male flowers in catkin-like elongated clusters 1.3-5 cm long, at the ends of the branchlets. Female flowers clustered in oval **heads** at the ends of short side branchlets. Cones rusty hairy when young, nearly hairless at maturity. Mature **cones** 13-25 mm long. **Bracteoles** broadly pointed, thinly woody, prominent, extending well beyond the **cone** body. Mature 'seeds' 5-10.5 mm long, grey or yellow-brown, dull, with one **wing**.

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

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