

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Canberra, ACT



Flowering plant. Photographer Dane Wimbush, Bournda National Park north of Merimbula



Line drawings. d. plant; flower. M.Mbir, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Common centaury, Pink stars, Centaury

Family

Gentianaceae

Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, grassy areas, disturbed sites, and damp areas. Widespread.

Notes

Introduced annual or **biennial** herb to 0.5 m tall. Stems angular, hairless. Basal leaves in a **rosette**, rarely withered at flowering. If withered, they leave leaf scars close together at the base of the plant. Basal leaves 2.5-5 cm long, 8-20 mm wide, hairless, stem leaves opposite each other, 1-4 cm long, 5-15 mm wide, hairless, decreasing in size up the stems. Flowers 7-15 mm long, pink, tubular, with 5 lobes, each 4-6 mm long, in branched clusters. Corolla dries rose-pink. **Calyx** mostly 4-6 mm long and less than two-thirds the length of the **corolla** tube. Flowers all year.

Hybridises with ***Centaureum tenuiflorum***.

Differs from ***Schenkia australis*** in that both branches of the **inflorescence** are about the same size. **Style** slightly forked; **stigma** lobes kidney-shaped to shoe-shaped, fleshy. Seed case **linear**.

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

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