

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower. Photographer John Tann, Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve near Port Macquarie



Plant base. Photographer John Tann, Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve near Port Macquarie



Flowering plant. Photographer John Tann, Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve near Port Macquarie

Common name

Leafless Milkwort

Family

Polygalaceae

Where found

Forest, wet **heath**, and swamps. Coast, ranges, and tablelands.

Notes

Shrub to 0.6 m high with few to numerous **erect** more or less leafless stems arising annually from a woody **rhizome**. Stems angled, more or less ridged, hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 0.5–1.5 cm long, 1–2 mm wide, rarely seen and then only on the lower part of the plant. Flowers blue to purple, 3–5 mm long, with 3 **petals** in the middle of the flower, the largest looking like the **keel** of a pea flower, and 2 coloured **sepals** that look like the **wings** of a pea flower. Wing sepals mostly 2–3 mm long. Flowers appearing single, in open clusters up the stems. Seed cases oval, with a long narrow base, 6.5–11 mm long. Flowering: November–May. Seed cases with a narrow **wing**.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Comesperma~defoliatum> (accessed 1 April 2021)

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