

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stems. Photographer Don Wood, Nunnock Swamp, South East Forests National Park



Flowering stem Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Peter Olerenshaw, Paddys River bridge, NSW



Seed cases. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Alexander Schmidt-Lebuhn, Kosciuszko National Park



Flowering shrub. Photographer Ken Thomas, Namadji National Park, ACT

Common name

Mountain milkwort, Purple milkwort

Family

Polygalaceae

Where found

Wet **heath** and swamps. Ranges, tablelands, ACT, the mountains to the west, and Kosciuszko National Park. Rarely coastal or Western Slopes.

Notes

Shrub to 1.6 m high. Stems pinkish, hairless, smooth to covered with minute warts. Older stems marked with leaf scars. Leaves **alternating** up the stems or crowded, 0.5–1.5 cm long, 2–4 mm wide, both surfaces the same colour, leaves thick, margins flat, tips blunt or with a small **mucro**. Flowers 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. Flowers purple- or lilac-pink or magenta, sometimes white. Keel tips yellow, greenish, or dark. Wing sepals 2–8 mm long. Flowers clustered. Flowers September–March. Seed cases with a narrow **wing**.

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

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

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