

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Photographer Russell Best, north of Melbourne



Flowering plant. Photographer Jackie Miles



Plants. Photographer Jackie Miles



Line drawings in Britton, N.L., and A. Brown, 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 3: 456.

Common name

Purple cudweed, Purplish cudweed

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Gardens, footpaths, and other disturbed and damp sites. Widespread, mostly in the Sydney area, Blue Mountains, and the ACT.

Notes

Introduced annual or **perennial** herb to 0.5 m tall. Stems **tomentose**. Basal **rosette** leaves persisting at flowering, 1-12 cm long, 5-20 mm wide, upper surface green with sparse hairs, **midvein** similar in colour to the surface, lower surface white tomentose, margins sometimes wavy, tips blunt to pointed. Stem leaves **alternating** up the stems, similar, 1-3 cm long, progressively smaller and relatively narrower toward (and within) the flower clusters. Flower **heads** 4-4.5 mm long, 1.5-3 mm in diameter, with 0 'petals'. **Florets** with purple tips when young, becoming whitish or slightly silvery at maturity. **Bracts** tightly surrounding the flower heads shining, straw-coloured, chaffy, translucent at the tips. Flower heads in clusters at the bases of the leaves, forming a dense **spike**. Flowers mainly Spring to Summer.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Gamochaeta-purpurea> (accessed 16 April 2021)

Flora North America description: http://e.floras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=242416575 (accessed 16 April 2021)

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