

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers (subsp. *brevisepalus*). Photographer Richard Hartland, Cobungra, Vic



Flowering stems (subsp. *brevisepalus*). Photographer Don Wood, Black Mountain, ACT



Flowering shrubs (subsp. *brevisepalus*). Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Namadgi National Park, ACT

Common name

A beard-heath

Family

Ericaceae

Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, and **shrubland**. Widespread. No coastal records south of the Sydney area.

subsp. *brevisepalus*: Widespread. Rarely coastal.

subsp. *fletcheri*: Sydney area and west to Newnes State Forest north of Lithgow.

Notes

Shrub to 1.8 m high. Leaf tips sharp. Fruit fleshy. Branchlets hairy to rough. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 0.37–1 cm long, 1–3.1 mm wide, convex in cross section, thin, base squared off; margins **entire** or with minute teeth; **striate**-ribbed on lower surface, tips tapering to a point, with a **mucro** 0.5–2 mm long. Flowers white to pale pink, tubular, the tube 2.6–8 mm long, with 5 hairy lobes 2.4–3.8 mm long, hairy inside. Flowers hanging down, usually in groups of 1–3 in **spikes** crowded at the end of the branches. The hairs on the inside of the flowers can best be seen using a hand lens. Flowering: August–December.

Styphelia fletcheri in VICFLORA. (accessed 26 February, 2021)

Family was Epacridaceae.

subsp. brevisepalus: Flowers in clusters of 1–3; **sepals** 2–3.7 mm long; flower tube 2.6–8 mm long; **ovary** 0.9–1 mm long; **style** 3.9–7 mm long; fruit oval, widest below the middle, 3–5 mm long

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

subsp. fletcheri: Flowers single. Sepals 3.4–4.6 mm long; flower tube 3.5–4.8 mm long; ovary 1–1.9 mm long; style 5.4–7.9 mm long; fruit ridged, oval, 4.5–5 mm long

(subsp. *fletcheri*) Endangered NSW. Provisions of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 No 63 relating to the protection of protected plants generally also apply to plants that are a threatened species.

NSW Threatened Species profile with photos: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=10474> (accessed 26 February, 2021)

PlantNET description of species and key to subspecies: <http://plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Leucopogon~fletcheri> (accessed 26 February, 2021)

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