

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, near Boorowa



Flowering stems. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Snowy River, NSW



Plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Scottsdale Bush Heritage Reserve near Bredbo

## Common name

Wireweed, Hogweed

## Family

Polygonaceae

## Where found

Grassy areas, disturbed sites and roadsides. Mainly Sydney area and Canberra. Widespread elsewhere but not common.

## Notes

**Introduced annual** or **biennial** herb, commonly mat-forming, sometimes **erect** when among taller plants, with stems to 1.2 m long. Stems hairless. Leaves **alternating** along the stems, 0.8-5 cm long, 2-18 mm wide, with a silvery **stipular sheath** at the base, soon disintegrating, surfaces hairless, margins flat or wavy, tips pointed. Leaves decrease in size towards the ends of the stems. Flowers 1.8-3.5 mm long, with 5 '**petals**' joined at the base, '**petals**' white or pink, sometimes red outside or greenish with pink or white margins, in clusters of 1-5. Flowers mostly Dec.-May.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Polygonum~aviculare> (accessed 22 January, 2021)

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