

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Kosciuszko National Park



Flowering stems. Photographer Richard Hartland, Mt Buller, Vic

Common name

Candle heath

Family

Ericaceae

Where found

Montane to alpine **heath** and **grassland**, near streams, and in and around swamps and Sphagnum bogs. Kosciuszko National Park, the mountains to the north, and the western edge of the ACT.

Notes

Shrub to 1 m high, branches sometimes sprawling, often freely rooting and creeping extensively through sphagnum bogs. Leaves with sharp points. Individual flower clusters initially covered by a broad brown **bract** with a rigid sharp tip that may be hooked. Flowers swollen and fleshy. Branches with persistent old leaves at the base, older branches without persistent leaf scars. Leaves crowded, overlapping each other, 1–4 cm long, 2–7 mm wide, bases sheathing, margins **entire**, sometimes with small teeth. Flowers greenish or creamy-white, 4–8 mm long, 4–5 mm in diameter, oval, with a tube and 5 lobes, the lobes not separating. Flowers in a **spike**-like cluster, at first short with the flowers enclosed in brown **bracts**, later elongating to 50–300 mm on a reddish stalk, the bracts falling. Flowering: December–February.

Family was Epacridaceae.

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=Richea-continentis> (accessed 5 February, 2021)

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