

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



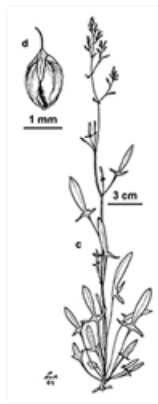
Stems with male flowers. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Meredith, Vic



Stems with seed cases. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Meredith, Vic



Fruiting plant. Photographer Don Wood, near Candelo



Line drawings. c. plant; d. seed case. M.Mbir, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

## Common name

Sorrel, Sheep sorrel

## Family

Polygonaceae

## Where found

**Woodland, heath** and **shrubland**, grassy areas, roadsides, disturbed sites, and wetlands. Widespread.

## Notes

**Introduced perennial** climber, stems up to 5m long, **rhizomatous**. The stems arise each year from an underground **tuber**. Stems and leaves somewhat fleshy. Stems hairless, ribbed. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 2-10 cm long, 10-70 mm wide, bases usually with pointed lobes, a **sheath** at the base of the stalk. Flowers usually bisexual, occasionally female. Flowers small, greenish, with 3 '**sepals**' about 1 mm long, and 3 '**petals**' about 1 mm long, in large clusters. Seed cases pink or with a purplish tinge, often mistaken for flowers, turning light brown to straw-coloured as they dry out. Flowers Spring to Autumn.

Was *Acetosella vulgaris*.

PlantNET description: <https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Rumex~acetosella> (accessed 18 March 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:



Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY)