

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Female flowers and spine-tipped leaves. Photographer Jackie Miles, near Batemans Bay



Stem with green seed cases. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Millewa, Vic



Mature bush. Photographer Don Wood, Scotia Sanctuary, western NSW

Common name

Prickly Saltwort, Soft Buckbush, Roly-poly

Family

Chenopodiaceae

Where found

Variety of vegetation communities, often a colonizing species in dry or somewhat saline areas. Coastal. Western Slopes. Rarely elsewhere.

Notes

Annual or **biennial** herb to 1 m tall. Spine-tipped leaves. Young stems and leaves fleshy. Stems hairless or sparsely rough hairy, sometimes warty. Leaves mostly **alternating** up the stems, 0.5–4 cm long, 0.5–6 mm wide, leaf bases continuing down the stems, cylindrical or triangular in cross section, hairless or rough, margins sometimes sparsely bristly or warty, tips with a sharp point. Flowers with 5 **perianth segments** (3 outer, 2 inner) 2–4 mm long, free from each other or shortly united at the base. Flowers usually single, sometimes in open or condensed **spikes** towards the ends of the branches. Seed cases pale green to cream, becoming straw-coloured, pink, or translucent with dark brown **veins**, usually with a horizontal **wing** consisting of five lobes. Dry plants often break off at the base and blow away intact, the seed cases dropping off as they roll.

Uncertain Status (native or **naturalised**) in the ACT.

Salsola tragus in Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Salsola~australis> (accessed 26 January 2021)

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