

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower heads and leaf. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Tas



Flowering stems. Photographer Jon Sullivan, New Zealand

## Common name

Purple Groundsel

## Family

Asteraceae

## Where found

**Shrubland**, coastal environs, particularly dunes and swales, and rocky areas. Coast and ranges south of Bega.

## Notes

**Introduced annual** herb to 1 m high or sprawling. Stems ribbed, hairless, or somewhat hairy on young growth. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 3–20 cm long, 15–50 mm wide, margins deeply **dissected** or toothed, with 2–5 major **segments** per side; the segments typically widest near the tips and irregularly lobed or toothed; bases slightly to moderately **auriculate**, slightly stem-clasping, surfaces sparsely rough. Flower **heads** with 12–17 (rarely doubled) bright pink to rich purple, rarely white, '**petals**' each 7–20 mm long, and yellow centres about 5–7 mm in diameter with 40 or more **florets**. Flower heads behind the '**petals**' approximately cup-shaped, surrounded by 12–16 **appressed** green **bracts**. Flowers in few to many-flowered branched clusters usually with 1–6 flower heads per branch. Flowers Sep.–Jan.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Senecio~elegans> (accessed 6 February, 2021)

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