

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, ACT



Flowering plant. Photographer Don Wood, near Pambula Lake



Flowering plant. Photographer Jackie Miles

Common name

Prickly sowthistle, Rough sowthistle

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, grassy areas, disturbed sites, and roadsides. Widespread.

Notes

Introduced annual or **biennial** herb to 1.5 m tall. Leaf margins spiny. Stems hairless. Leaves basal and **alternating** up the stems, 4-30 cm long, 20-70 mm wide, hairless, stiff and more or less leathery, rather glossy, **glaucous** or dark green, margins toothed to **dissected**, often prickly, sometimes wavy, sometimes **entire**, tips pointed, bases with stem-clasping rounded **auricles**. Basal leaves lacking auricles and sometimes forming a **rosette**. Leaves sometimes **compound**. Flower **heads** with 80-300 yellow '**petals**' each 4-5 mm long. Flower heads behind the '**petals**' 10-13 mm long, 5-6 mm in diameter, oval to top shaped. Flower heads in open clusters. Flowers Spring to Summer.

Was *Sonchus asper* subsp. *glaucescens*.

Sonchus asper subsp. *asper* in Vic.

Intermediate forms between *Sonchus asper* and *Sonchus oleraceus* are sometimes seen.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Sonchus~asper> (accessed 30 January, 2021)

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