

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



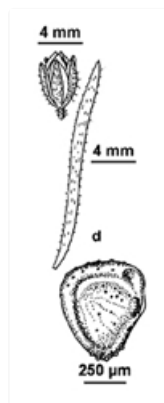
Flower. Photographer Jackie Mies



Flowers and leaves. Photographer Don Wood, Merimbula



Plant. Photographers Forest & Kim Starr, Hawaii



Line drawings d. leaf; flower; seed. EMMayfield, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Lesser sand-spurrey

Family

Caryophyllaceae

Where found

Coastal and inland saline lakes, salt marshes, mud flats, along streams, and coastal cliffs. Occasionally in disturbed areas. Mainly coast and tablelands. Occasional elsewhere.

Notes

Annual, biennial, or occasionally **perennial** herb, **prostrate** to sprawling or to 0.35 m tall. Stems hairless to sticky hairy. Leaves fleshy, opposite each other, sometimes clustered, 0.5-5 cm long, 0.6-1.5 mm wide, hairless to sticky-hairy, tips rounded or with a small **mucro**. **Stipules** membranous, fused to the stem for about one-third to half their length, tips blunt to scarcely gradually tapering to a point. Flowers with 5 **petals** each 3-4 mm long (occasionally to 8 mm long), rose-purple or pink with white at the base, or whitish, and usually with 2-5 **stamens**. Petals sometimes reduced or absent. **Sepals** 1.5-3 mm long. Flowers in dense or open clusters. Seed cases 4-6 mm long. Flowers Spring.

Definite differentiation between the species of *Spergularia* depends on microscopic examination of the seeds.

Description mostly taken from: Adams, L.G. West, J.G. & Cowley, K.J., (2008) Revision of *Spergularia* (Caryophyllaceae) in Australia. *Australian Systematic Botany* 21: 261-262

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Spergularia-marina> (accessed 18 January, 2021)

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iOS edition