

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower and buds. Photographer Jackie Mles



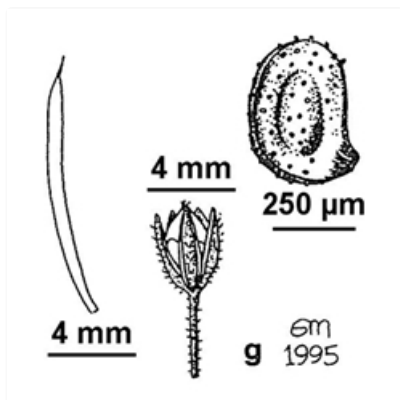
Flowering stems. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Canberra, ACT



Spent flower and seed cases. Photographer Jackie Mles



Flowering plant. Photographer Jackie Mles



Line drawings g. leaf; flower; seed. EM Mayfield, National Herbarium of Victoria, ©2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

## Common name

Sandspurry, Red sandspurry

## Family

Caryophyllaceae

## Where found

Grassy areas, disturbed sites, and around saline flats. Widespread.

## Notes

**Introduced annual, biennial**, or short-lived **perennial** herb, sprawling, to 0.2 m tall. Stems hairless to more or less sticky hairy on the upper parts. Leaves scarcely fleshy, opposite each other, often clustered or in **whorls**. Leaves 0.4-2.5 cm long, 0.4-1.2 mm wide, thread-like, hairless or sticky hairy, tips drawn out into a thin bristle. Conspicuous silvery membranous **stipules** which give a frosted

appearance to the plant, fused to the stem for much less than half their length, tips gradually tapering to a point. Flowers with 5 uniformly pink or lilac **petals**, each 2.4-4 mm long, and with 5-10 **stamens**, in open many-flowered leafy clusters. Seed cases 4-5.5 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: 263-264

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

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