

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



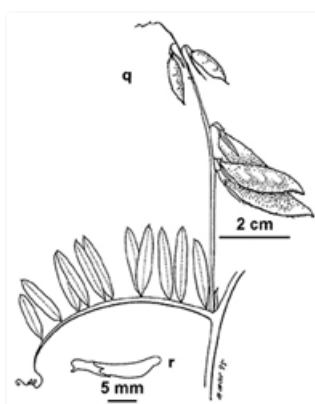
Flowers and leaf (subsp. *ericarpa*). Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, between Bungendore and Braidwood



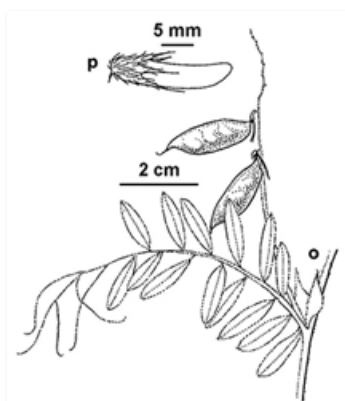
Flowers and leaf (subsp. *ericarpa*). Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, between Bungendore and Braidwood



Flowering plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, between Bungendore and Braidwood



Line drawings (subsp. *ericarpa*). q. seeding stem r. flower. M.Mbir, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board



Line drawings (subsp. *villosa*). o. seeding stem p. flower. M.Mbir, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Russian vetch

Family

Fabaceae

Where found

Grassy areas, roadsides, and other disturbed sites. Coast and ranges north from Wollongong. Tablelands. Canberra. Occasional elsewhere.

subsp. *eriocarpa*: Sydney area, tablelands, and Canberra. Occasional elsewhere.

subsp. *villosa*: Sydney area north from Campbelltown. Rare elsewhere.

Notes

Introduced annual or rarely **biennial** herb, trailing or climbing, to 2 m tall. Stems hairy to hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 5-11 cm long excluding the tendril at the tip, **compound**, with 4-24 leaflets. Leaflets each mostly 0.5-3.5 cm long, 1-8 mm wide, tips with a short **mucro**, surfaces hairy to hairless. **Stipules entire**, without **glands**. Flowers 10-20 mm long, pea shaped, with 5 **petals**, 2 joined together to form the **keel**, purplish red to violet or blue, sometimes with white or yellow **wings**. Flower stalks longer than the flowers. Flowers in clusters of 2-40 flowers. Flowers mainly winter-spring.

subsp. eriocarpa: Stems **appressed**-hairy to more or less hairless. Leaflets mostly 0.5-1.5 cm long, 1-5 mm wide. Stipules less than 3 mm wide. Lower **calyx** teeth shorter than the calyx tube. Pods hairy.

subsp. villosa: Leaflets mostly 1-3.5 cm long, 2-8 mm wide. Stems with dense **spreading** hairs. Stipules 2-5 mm wide. Lower calyx teeth as long as or longer than the calyx tube. Pods hairless.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Vicia~villosa>
(accessed 29 March, 2021)

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This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:



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