

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Male flowers. Photographer Richard Hartland, Beaufort, Vic?



Male plant. Photographer Don Wood, Gungahlin Hill, ACT



Female flowers. Photographer Richard Hartland, Beaufort, Vic?



Female plant. Photographer Don Wood, Gungahlin Hill, ACT

## Common name

Early Nancy

## Family

Colchicaceae

## Where found

**Forest, woodland**, grassy areas, damp sites, and near swamps. Widespread.

## Notes

**Perennial** herb to 0.4 m tall. Hairless. Flower stalk zig-zags between the flowers. Leaves 3, **alternating** up the stem, well separated or occasionally the lower 2 at the base of the plant, 1-35 cm long, the lowest leaf threadlike or **linear**, 0.2-5 mm wide, second leaf threadlike or lance **head** shaped and tapering, the base dilated or occasionally like the lowest leaf; upper leaf dilated and with a short or long narrow portion at the top. Male and female flowers on separate plants or on the same plant, sometimes male, female, and bisexual flowers on the one plant, or all flowers bisexual. Flowers creamy white, occasionally flushed pink, with a blackish, purple, reddish purple, or greenish band and often a purple centre, sweetly scented, with 6 '**petals**' each 3.5-11.5 mm long, fused towards the base. Flower clusters 1-15 flowered. Flowers Winter to Spring.

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=in&name=Wurmbea~dioica~subsp.+dioica> (accessed 8 February, 2021)

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