

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stems. Photographer Don Wood, Namadgi National Park, ACT



Fruit and leaves. Photographer Russell Best, Bogong High Plains, Vic



Shrub. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Namadgi National Park, ACT

Common name

Mountain Beard-Heath

Family

Ericaceae

Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, **shrubland**, alpine **heath**, and grassy areas, often on damp rocky soils. ACT. Western Slopes and tablelands east, west, and south of the ACT. Kosciuszko National Park. Occasionally in the ranges.

Notes

Shrub to 3 m high, often sprawling. Fruit fleshy. Branchlets rough, covered in minute bristles or projections. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 0.4–1.2 cm long, 1–4 mm wide, hairless, surfaces different colours, lower surface often **glaucous** and with 3 central more or less parallel **veins**, margins **entire** and finely toothed towards the tips. Flowers **erect**, male and female, or bisexual and female flowers on the same plant, or the flowers rarely bisexual. Flowers white, 2–4 mm in diameter, tubular, the tube hairy inside near the throat (may need a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see), with 5 lobes. Flowers in more or less crowded **spikes** of 4–10 mm long of 1–10 flowers. Fruit pink or red when ripe. Flowers Winter to Summer.

Some populations near the tree line appear to show characteristics intermediate between *Acrothamnus hookeri* and *Acrothamnus montanus*.

Family was Epacridaceae.

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=sp&name=Acrothamnus-hookeri> (accessed 2 January, 2021)

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