

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers. Photographer Bart Wursten, Zimbabwe



Flowering stem. Photographer Jackie Miles



Flowering plant. Photographer Jackie Miles

Common name

Shepherd's Purse

Family

Brassicaceae

Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, grassy areas, and disturbed sites. Widespread. Common in the Sydney area.

Notes

Introduced annual herb to 0.5 m tall. Stems bristly with **stellate** hairs (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see), or almost hairless. Leaves mostly in a basal **rosette**, 3-15 cm long, almost hairless to hairy or bristly, margins deeply lobed to toothed, or **entire**. The few stem leaves **alternating** up the stems, smaller, with basal lobes, usually stem clasping, margins entire or toothed. Flowers white, with 4 **petals** each to 2-3 mm long, in a **raceme** up the stem that lengthens so the seeds are well spaced. Flowers mainly Winter to Spring.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Capsella-bursa-pastoris> (accessed 7 January, 2021)

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