

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower head. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Cooma



Plant with flower buds. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Corop, Vic



Rosette. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer S Dewey, USA

Common name

Star thistle

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Weed. **Woodland**, grassy areas, roadsides, wasteland and cultivated areas. Western Slopes, ACT, and tablelands. Occasionally in the Sydney area.

Notes

Introduced annual or **biennial** herb to 1 m high. **Bracts** on the flower **heads** spiny. Stems much-branched, grooved; stems and leaves with coarse hairs. Basal leaves short-lived, to 20 cm long, to 50 mm wide, deeply **dissected**, the margins of the lobes toothed. Stem leaves **alternating** up the stems, the lower stem leaves lobed, to 2–8 cm long, 10–30 mm wide, dark green; upper leaves **entire**, 2–4 mm wide, becoming **linear**. Flower heads 10–15 mm long below the '**petals**', 6–10 mm in diameter, oval to cylindrical. **Florets** ('**petals**') pale purple, pink, or white, 15–20 mm long. Flower heads single. Flowering: spring–summer.

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW. Noxious weed Vic.

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

Author: Betty Wood.

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