

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stems. Photographer Don Wood, Brooks Hill Reserve near Bungendore



Flowering stems. Photographer Don Wood, Jervis Bay Territory



Flowering shrub. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Yanunbeyan State Conservation Area, near Captain's Flat

Common name

Pyramid flower, Heath milkwort

Family

Polygalaceae

Where found

Dry **forest** and damp **heath**. Widespread.

Notes

Shrub to 2 m high. Stems reddish, hairless to bristly. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 0.5–2.5 cm long, 1–4 mm wide, surfaces different colours, lower surface **glaucous**, **midrib** usually apparent, tips usually continued into a short, curved down point, margins curled or rolled down except near the tips. Flowers purple or lilac-pink or white, 4–8 mm long, with 3 **petals** in the middle of the flower, the largest looking like the **keel** of a pea flower, and 2 coloured **sepals** that look like the **wings** of a pea flower. Keel yellow- or cream-tipped. Wing sepals 4–8.5 mm long. Flower clusters slender, often in groups near the tops of the stems. Flowers throughout the year, mostly Oct–Dec. Seed cases with a narrow **wing**.

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=Comesperma~ericinum> (accessed 1 April 2021)

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