

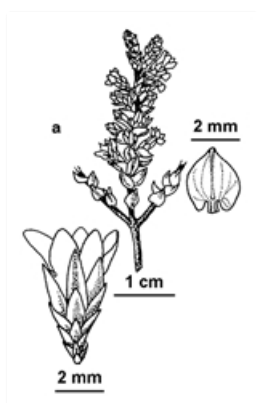
Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Photographer Jackie Mies



Flowering stems. Photographer Don Wood, Nadgee State Forest south of Eden



Line drawings (as *Epacris microphylla* var. *microphylla*). a. flowering branch; leaf undersurface; flower. EMMayfield, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board



Shrub. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Barrington Tops

Common name

Coral heath, Coast coral heath

Family

Ericaceae

Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, **heath**, along streams, and swampy areas and bogs. Widespread, but rare on the Western Slopes. No coastal records between south of Ulladulla and north of Merimbula.

Notes

Shrub to 1.8 m high. Leaves sharp pointed. Stems with inconspicuous leaf scars. Branchlets very hairy. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 0.15–0.6 cm long, 1.5–4 mm wide, more or less broadly oval, usually concave in cross section, bases usually **cordate** and stem-clasping, margins more or less rough; **blades** more or less thick, usually concave. Flowers white, often pink-tipped in bud, 4–6 mm long, 1.5–4 mm wide, tubular, the tube bell-shaped, with 5 **spreading** lobes. No hairs on the inside of the flowers. Flowers forming a leafy **spike** down the stems. Flowering: Throughout the year but mainly July–November.

The low **shrub** less than 0.5 m high that occurs in alpine **feldmark**, treated as *Epacris gunnii* in Mark Ballantyne, Catherine M. Pickering, Keith L. McDougall and Genevieve T. Wright: Sustained impacts of a hiking trail on changing Windswept Feldmark vegetation in the Australian Alps *Australian Journal of Botany*, 2014, 62, 263–275, is now regarded as *Epacris microphylla* in the broad sense as described in *Kosciuszko Alpine Flora*. However, it is likely to be an as yet unnamed species. (pers. comm. from Genevieve Wright, April 2018)

Was *Epacris microphylla* var. *microphylla*.

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=Epacris~microphylla>

(accessed 12 January, 2021)

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