

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower cluster. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Bredbo



Flowering stems. Photographer Don Wood, Bomaderry Creek Regional Reserve north of Nowra



Plants. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Bredbo



Line drawing. Plant; flower head. E Mayfield, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

## Common name

Common cudweed, Star cudweed

## Family

Asteraceae

## Where found

Variety of **habitats**, including **forest**, **woodland**, **mallee**, grassy areas, disturbed ground, floodplains, and coastal sands. Widespread.

## Notes

**Annual**, occasionally **biennial**, herb to 1 m tall, sometimes sprawling. Stems **woolly**. Basal leaves soon withering. Stem leaves **alternating** up the stems, 1-15 cm long, 1-15 mm wide, green or **glaucous** to slightly hairy above, whitish or green and hairy below, margins curved down and often wavy, tips blunt to pointed with a  **mucro**. Flower **heads** reddish-purple or pale brownish, 3-4 mm long, 1-1.5 mm in diameter, with 1 **floret**, 0 **petals**; in a dense hemispherical to globular cluster about 5-25 mm in diameter of numerous flower heads, **subtended** by 3-10 leaf-like **bracts**, the longest usually about twice as long as the diameter of the cluster. Flower cluster at the top of the stem. Smaller clusters occasionally at the base of the upper leaves. Flowers all year.

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=Erechtosaceae> (accessed 22 January, 2021)

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