

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower cluster. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Murrumbidgee River, ACT



Flower clusters and leaves. Photographer mel\_86, Canberra, ACT



Leaves, flowers, and fruit. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Murrumbidgee River, ACT



Non-flowering plant. Photographer Robert A Hamilton, California, USA

## Common name

Caper spurge

## Family

Euphorbiaceae

## Where found

**Shrubland**, disturbed sites, coastal sites, rocky sites, and near water. Widespread. Rare on the Western Slopes.

## Notes

**Introduced biennial** herb to 1.5 m high. Hairless, more or less **glaucous**. Leaves opposite each other, 2–16 cm long, 5–40 mm wide, shiny above, glaucous below, tips pointed to blunt, bases sometimes slightly **cordate**, margins **entire**. Male and female flowers on the same plant. Flowers tiny, with 0 **petals**, in mixed clusters that look like a single flower, of one to many male flowers and one female flower. **Glands** surrounding the flower clusters with 2 club-shaped horns. Flower clusters single. Flowering: Aug.–Jan. Seed cases 9–15 mm in diameter.

Poisonous to humans and livestock. Its milky sap can cause dermatitis and eye irritation.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lv=sp&name=Euphorbia-lathyris> (accessed 22 January, 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:



Android edition



iOS edition

Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY)