

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers and leaves. Photographer JC Schou, Denmark



Flower stalk and leaves (subsp. *wirtgenii*)
Photographer Jackie Miles



Flowering stems. Australian Plant Image Index,
photographer AN Schmidt-Lebuhn, Koorawatha
Nature Reserve south of Cowra

Common name

Common Fumitory

Family

Papaveraceae

Where found

Weed.

subsp. *officinalis*: Mainly Sydney area. Widespread elsewhere but not common.

subsp. *wirtgenii*: Western Slopes.

Notes

Introduced annual herb to 0.5 m tall, sometimes **scrambling**. Stems hairless. Leaves **alternating** along the stems, hairless, deeply **dissected**, appearing **compound**, fern-like, **segments** flat, more than 2 mm wide. Flowers usually 7–9 mm long, with 2 **sepals**, 1.5–3.5 mm long, with irregularly toothed margins, one on either side of the flower, soon falling, and 4 **petals**, purple-pink or white, with blackish tips, forming 2 lips, in 10-30-flowered clusters, the clusters longer than the flower stalk. Seed cases more or less wrinkled when dry.

subsp. officinalis: Flowers mostly in more than 20-flowered clusters. Sepals mostly 2–3.5 mm long, 1–1.5 mm wide; smaller in flowers that self-pollinate without opening, or end-of-season flowers. Flowers spring to summer.

subsp. wirtgenii: Flowers in 10–20-flowered clusters. Sepals 1.5–2 mm long, 1 mm wide. Flowers winter.

Family was Fumariaceae.

PlantNET description of species and key to subspecies: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Fumaria-officinalis> (accessed 17 January, 2021)

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