

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, near Bulli



Seed case and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, near Bulli



Open seed case with seeds. Photographer H. Zell, Germany

Common name

Narrow-leaved cotton bush, Swan plant

Family

Apocynaceae

Where found

Open **woodland**, grassy areas, roadsides, disturbed sites, and along streams. Blue Mountains and the Sydney area, and south to Jervis Bay. Occasionally elsewhere. Doubtfully **naturalised** in the ACT.

Notes

Introduced shrub to 2 m high. Stems hairy with fine hairs when young, becoming hairless with age. Leaves opposite each other, sometimes **alternating** up the stems, 4–12.5 cm long, 5–15 mm wide, soft, smooth, tapering to a fine point. Flowers white or cream, about 20 mm long, 12–13 mm in diameter, tubular, with 5 lobes, in 3–10-flowered clusters. Flowering: most of the year. Balloon-like fruit oval, 4–6 cm long, 2–3.5 cm diameter, slightly curved, gradually narrowed into a short, curved **beak**. Poisonous.

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

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