

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Branches with buds and flowers. Photographer Don Wood, Carnarvon Station Bush Heritage Reserve via Augathella, Qld



Flowering and fruiting branches. Australian Plant Image Index, Australian Tropical Rainforest key



Open seed case and seeds. Photographers Forest & Kim & Starr, unknown place

## Common name

Balloon Cotton Bush

## Family

Apocynaceae

## Where found

**Woodland**, pastures, grasslands, disturbed sites, roadsides, and along streams. Coastal north from Moruya. Occasionally elsewhere.

## Notes

**Introduced shrub** to 2.5 m high. Stems covered in soft hairs, becoming hairless with age. Leaves opposite each other, sometimes almost opposite each other or crowded near the ends of the stems, 3.5–12 cm long, 5–20 mm wide, soft, smooth, tapering to a fine point. Flowers white, cream to greenish cream, or pinkish, 12–13 mm in diameter, tubular, with 5 lobes. Flowers in 4–12-flowered clusters. Flowering: spring–autumn. Balloon-like fruit round or almost round, 4.5–7.5 cm long, 4–7 cm diameter, not curved, abruptly pointed, the **beak** very short, inconspicuous, and sunken into the notched tips of the fruit. Poisonous.

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

Author: Betty Wood.

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



Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY)



Android edition



iOS edition