

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Male flowers and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Male flowering branch. Photographer Don Wood, Araluen



branches with female flowers and seed cases. Photographer Richard Hartland, Longwarry, Vic



Shrub. Photographer Lyn Allison, Westgate Park, Melbourne, Vic

Common name

Hempbush

Family

Malvaceae

Where found

Forst and **shrubland**, usually in wet gullies and on along streams. Widespread.

Notes

Shrub or tree to 5 m tall, hairless or covered in **stellate** hairs (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see). Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 4-15 cm long, 15-60 mm wide, bases **cordate**, tips pointed, margins scalloped. Male and female flowers on different plants. Flowers fragrant, reported to smell like a combination of white chocolate and custard powder. Flowers with 5 cream to white **petals**. Male flowers 8-12 mm in diameter, usually with a non-functional **ovary**. Female flowers 4-5 mm in diameter, with some non-functioning **stamens**. Flowers clustered. Flowers Winter to Spring. Common after fire.

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=Gynatrix~pulchella> (accessed 19 January, 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

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