

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers and leaves. Photographer Murray Fagg, Canberra, ACT



Flowering stems. Photographer Don Wood, Scotia Sanctuary, western NSW



Flowering plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Elmore, Vic

Common name

Common heliotrope, Caterpillar weed, Potato weed

Family

Boraginaceae

Where found

Woodland, grassy areas, and disturbed sites. Western Slopes and ACT. Occasionally elsewhere.

Notes

Introduced annual herb, to 0.4 m tall or sprawling, finely hairy with short grey hairs (appearing yellowish on new growth), or hairy with wart-based greyish hairs. Leaves with a somewhat unpleasant smell when rubbed, **alternating** up the stems, 1-7 cm long, 5-30 mm wide, hairy, sometimes rough, tips blunt. Flowers 2-5 mm long, white, often with a yellow throat, tubular, with five lobes, the lobes about as long as the tube. Flowers in dense one-sided, usually branched, **spikes**. Flowers Spring to Autumn.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Heliotropium~europaeum> (accessed 19 January, 2021)

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