

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



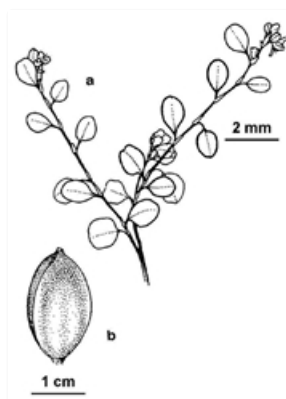
Male flowers and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Bredbo



Leaves and fleshy fruit. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Kosciuszko National Park



Flowering mat. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Line drawings. a. flowering branch; b. nut. MMBir, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Matted lignum

Family

Polygonaceae

Where found

Woodland, grassy areas, rocky areas, and near streams. Kosciuszko National Park, the mountains to the north, and the ACT. Tablelands east and south of the ACT.

Notes

Shrub, **prostrate** or nearly prostrate, forming **wiry** mats to 1 m diameter. Roots at the **nodes**. **Perianth** sometimes fleshy at the fruiting stage. Stems smooth or slightly flaky or **striate**, wiry, red-brown becoming grey-brown to blackish with age. Leaves **alternating** along the stems, 0.3-0.9 cm long, 2-4 mm wide, semicircular to oval, bright green, tips squared off or notched to pointed, base squared off, slightly **cordate**, or narrowing gradually, margins usually flat and smooth. Male and female flowers on different plants. Flowers yellow-green to cream, with 5 '**petals**' each 2-3 mm long, free almost to the base. Flowers in clusters of 1-3 flowers at the bases of the leaves..

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

Rare Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Muehlenbeckia-axillaris> (accessed 24 January, 2021)

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