

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



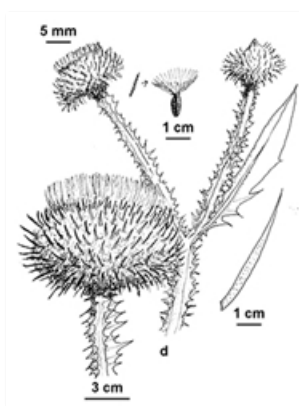
Flowering stem. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, north of Braidwood



Flowering plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Canberra, ACT



Flowering plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, north of Braidwood



Line drawings. d. flowering branch; flower head; bract; seed; pappus bristle. Illustration: Beckett, E., University of Oxford, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board,

## Common name

Scotch thistle, Heraldic thistle

## Family

Asteraceae

## Where found

Grassy areas, disturbed sites, and roadsides. Western Slopes, ACT, and tablelands. Occasional elsewhere.

## Notes

**Introduced annual** or **biennial** herb to 2 m tall. Stems, leaf margins, and bases of the flowers spiny. Stems whitish-grey, hairy, with broad spiny **wings**. Leaves forming a **rosette** in the first year, 10-40 cm long, 30-100 mm wide, then **alternating** up the stems, becoming smaller and narrower, bases continuing down the stems, margins toothed or deeply divided with numerous robust spines to 10 mm long, upper surface grey-green and sparsely **woolly**, lower surface paler and more densely woolly. Flower **heads** green, 20-60 mm long, 35-50 mm wide, almost globular, with many purple, reddish purple, or mauve **florets**. Flower heads in clusters of 1-3 flower heads. Bracts surrounding the flower heads less than 3 mm broad at the base, yellow, and only the outer **bracts** are bent sharply down. Flowers Winter to Summer.

***Onopordum acanthium* subsp. *acanthium*** in PlantNET.

Hybridises with *Onopordum illyricum*.

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW. Pest plant ACT. Noxious weed Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=in&name=Onopordum~acanthium~subsp.+acanthium> (accessed 13 April 2021)

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*Author: Betty Wood.*



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