

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem Photographer Jackie Miles



Flowering stem Photographer Don Wood, Depot Beach north of Batemans Bay

Common name

Myrtle-leaf milkwort

Family

Polygalaceae

Where found

Woodland, shrubland, grassy areas, roadsides, coastal environs, and along streams. Coastal. Ranges north of the area covered by this key.

Notes

Introduced shrub, to about 4 m high. Stems hairless or sparsely hairy with fine curled hairs. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 1–5 cm long, 4–20 mm wide, tips blunt to shallowly notched, surfaces hairless to sparsely hairy. Flowers purple to mauve or bright pink, with 3 **petals** in the middle of the flower, the largest looking like the **keel** of a pea flower, with 2 finely-branched structures 4–6 mm long at its tip, and 2 coloured **sepals** that look like the **wings** of pea flower, each 10–18 mm long. **Wing** sepals green on the outside, purple to mauve or bright pink within. Keel white or pale mauve, with a maroon blotch at the tip. Flowers in shortly elongated clusters 1–5 cm long. Flowering: throughout the year, mostly September–October.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Polygala-myrtifolia> (accessed 1 February, 2021)

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