

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem Photographer Jackie Mies



Flowering stem Photographer Don Wood, near Merimbula



Line drawings. f. flowering branch; flower; seed case with front 'wing' sepal removed; seed. T Brosch, National Herbarium of Victoria, ©2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

## Common name

Broom Milkwort

## Family

Polygalaceae

## Where found

**Woodland**, grassy areas, roadsides, disturbed sites, coastal dunes, and wetlands. Coastal. Sydney area away from the coast.

## Notes

**Introduced shrub**, usually to 3 m high. At least the lower branches more or less leafless and with knobby scars from fallen leaves. Stems sparsely hairy. Leaves, when present, **alternating** up the stems, 0.8–5 cm long, 1–5 mm wide, sparsely hairy. Flowers purple to pale mauve or 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 4–5 mm long at its tip, and 2 coloured **sepals** that look like the **wings** of pea flower, each 10–15 mm long. Keel pink, with a darker blotch at the tip. Flowers in elongated clusters 4–15 cm long, often forming large branched clusters. Flowering: July–November

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

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