

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



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



Flowering plants. Photographer Don Wood, south of Berragui



Back of flower on stem Photographer Jackie Miles



Line drawings. f. plant; seed.
Illustration: Mbir, M., National Herbarium of Victoria, ©
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Common name

Spike centaury

Family

Gentianaceae

Where found

Woodland. grassy places, and near water. Widespread.

Notes

Annual or rarely **biennial** herb to 0.45 m tall. Basal stems 4-angular, moderately branched above. Stems hairless. Basal leaves withering early. Stem leaves opposite each other, 1-3 cm long, 2-20 mm wide, hairless, stalkless. Flowers 9-12 mm long, pink to red, rarely white, tubular, usually with five lobes, each 2.5-5 mm long. **Style** almost knob-like; **stigma** lobes diamond-shaped to fan-shaped, not fleshy. **Calyx** 5-8 mm long, about two-thirds the length of **corolla** tube. Flowers Spring to Autumn. Seed case elliptical to oval.

Was *Centaurium spicatum*, then *Schenkia spicata*.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Schenkia~australis> (accessed 6 February, 2021)

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