

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Photographer Don Wood, north of Batemans Bay



Flowering stem. Photographer Jackie Miles



Line drawing. a. flowering branchlet. T Brosch, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Stagger weed

Family

Lamiaceae

Where found

Irrigated crops, roadsides, and disturbed sites. Mainly coastal, particularly in the Sydney area. Rarely elsewhere.

Notes

Introduced annual herb to 0.35 m high. Stems square in cross section, densely hairy, sometimes sticky. Leaves with an unpleasant strong mint-like odour when rubbed, opposite each other, 1–4 cm long, 8–32 mm wide, surfaces with scattered soft **spreading** hairs, tips somewhat pointed; bases often **cordate**; margins toothed to scalloped. Flowers white or pale pink to pale purple; 5–7 mm long; tubular, 2-lipped, the lower lip 3-lobed; the upper lip hooded. **Calyx** often purplish. Flowers in 2-6-flowered **whorls**, forming a leafy interrupted **spike**. Flowers mainly May–Nov.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Stachys-arvensis> (accessed 7 February, 2021)

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