

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



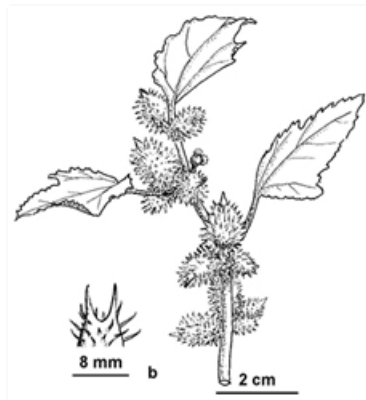
Stem with burrs. Photographer Ian McCann., © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board, Melbourne, Vic



Leaf. Photographer Neil Blair, Albury © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board, Melbourne, Vic



Plants. Photographer Neil Blair, Albury © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board, Melbourne, Vic



Line drawings. b. branch with burrs; tips of burr. Elpeth Beckett, University of Oxford., © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board, Melbourne, Vic

Common name

Noogoora burr, Cockle burr

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Low lying areas subject to inundation. Disturbed sites, along streams, river flats, and irrigated ground. Widespread.

Notes

Introduced annual forb to 2 m high. Burrs with many hooked spines, and two longer stout spines at the top. Stems bristly-hairy, purplish. Lower leaves opposite each other, upper leaves **alternating** up the stems. Leaves 5–16 cm long, 50–160 mm wide, 3- or 5-lobed; **cordate** to squared off at the base, margins toothed, surfaces rough, more or less dull, 3-veined, the **veins** purplish, tips pointed. Male and female flowers on the same plant. Individual flower **heads** small (less than 3 mm in diameter) and inconspicuous. Male flower heads globular, many-flowered, up to 7 at the tops of the stems or at the bases of the upper leaves. Female flower heads many-flowered, oval, in clusters of 1-12, at the bases of the leaves. Female flower heads surrounded by fused **bracts** completely enclosing the flower heads, the tips of the bracts becoming hooked spines at the seeding stage. Flowers Summer to Autumn. Burrs oval, hairy, 12–20 mm long (including spines).

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW. Pest plant ACT. Noxious weed Vic (as *Xanthium strumarium*).

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

Author: Betty Wood.

This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:



Android edition



iOS edition

Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY)