

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Photographer Russell Best, near Lake Mountain, Vic



Stems with seed cases. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Colin Totterdell, Kosciuszko National Park



Flowering plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT

## Common name

Mountain willow-herb

## Family

Onagraceae

## Where found

Alpine **herbfields**, grasslands, and rocky areas at high altitudes. Kosciuszko National Park and the western edge of the ACT.

## Notes

**Perennial** herb to 0.45 m tall, usually retaining dead leaves near the base, **rhizomatous**. Stems hairy with short curved hairs, occasionally with a few **glandular** hairs in the flowering region. Leaves opposite each other, **alternating** up the stems near the flowers, 1–5 cm long, 3–15 mm wide, margins with sparse small teeth, and sometimes wavy. Flowers white, pink, mauve, or purplish pink, with 4 notched **petals** each 3–8 mm long, hairless on the inner surface of the short **floral tube**. Flowers single. Flowering: summer. Seed cases 2–6 cm long, often reddish purple, covered with short crinkly hairs; on stalks 15–50 mm long.

Definite identification of *Epilobium* species requires microscopic examination of the seeds.

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

Rare Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Epilobium~sarmentaceum> (accessed 12 January, 2021)

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