

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Photographer Sue Guymer, east of Melbourne, Vic



Seed case and open seed cases. Photographer David Francis, Macedon Ranges, Vic



Open seed cases. Photographer David Francis, Macedon Ranges, Vic



Line drawings: e. stem; seed case; seeds. M.Mbir, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Variable stinkweed

Family

Rubiaceae

Where found

Forest and heath. Widespread., mostly on the coast and ranges.

Notes

Shrub to 0.3 m high. Stems numerous from one short main stem, angular, more or less rough to hairy with short hairs, limp. Leaves opposite each other, mostly 0.3–1.8 cm long, 1.5–6 mm wide, tips pointed, margins flat to strongly curved down, surfaces hairless to densely hairy or very rough. Flowers about 2 mm long, with 3–5 **petals** more or less fused at their bases. Flower **heads** 2–7-flowered, hemispherical, on curved down stalks 0–7 mm long. Flowering: June–October. Seeding heads 2–5 mm in diameter.

Definite identification of species of *Opercularia* in part requires microscopic examination of the seeds, beyond the scope of this key.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Opercularia-varia> (accessed 29 January, 2021)

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



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