

Lamiaceae
Prostanthera nivea
 showy mintbush



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ETYMOLOGY

(pros-TANTH-er-a) Greek appendage referring to small appendages on the anthers; The species nivea (NIV-vee-ah) from latin of snow like-snow; referring to the white cottony hairs that cover the upper branchlets and lower leaf surfaces.

LIFEFORM

Shrub 1-4 m x 1-3 m Spread

STATUS

Occurs in Qld, NSW, Vic, SE Australia; in isolated populations; Bentham described two varieties accepted by the Australian Plant Census: *P. nivea* var. *induta* and var *nivea*

OCCURS

Bungaree EP Bundaroo LA Conondale Ra Q, NSW, Vic

QLD DISTRICTS

Darling Downs, Moreton, Port Curtis, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Woodland, Rocky slopes, Ridges

LEAVES

Opposite 10-50 x 0.5-2 mm linear to sometimes needle like; apex obtuse to acute; base narrow-cuneate, decurrent; margins entire; flat to involute light to bright green.

FLOWERS

Tubular, 3-4 mm single white to mauve, with yellow spots in throat. 3-5 mm upper lobe. Corolla 14-18 mm Anthers with 1.5 mm appendage; axillary, often crowded towards the ends of the branches; **Flowering times** Sept, Oct, Nov

FRUIT

Fruit enclosed by persistent calyx; **Fruiting times** Dec, Jan

ROOTS

Grey coloured bark.

STEM

Erect slender glabrous bright green shrub, branches and leaves hairless to sparsely covered with white appressed hairs, light to bright green.

BIRD

Attracts nectar-eating birds

ID FEATURE

Non-aromatic shrub + Leaves linear, bright green hairless, conduplicate or incurved. appearing needle-like + Flowers white or mauve, yellow spots.