PLANT FACT SHEET

Muehlenbeckia axillaris (Hook.f.) Walp.

GENUS *Muehlenbeckia* **FAMILY** Polygonaceae

COMMON NAMES Matted Lignum, Creeping wire vine, Pohuehue

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw or cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It can be a climber and can form mats. The branches lie along the ground. It can grow up to 2 m high and spreads 0.5-2.5 m wide. There are often many branches and they are wiry and red-brown. They can form roots at the nodes. The leaves are 0.3-1.5 cm long by 0.2-1.5 cm wide. They are oval or rounded and are alternate. They are leathery and have short stalks. They are dark green and crowded. The flowers are very small. They are greenish. They can be in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. The fruit are nuts which are very small and 3 angled. They are 0.3 cm long and black or brown.

HABITAT

It grows in temperate places and can grow to 1200 m altitude. It can tolerate snow and frost. It suits hardiness zones 8-10. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

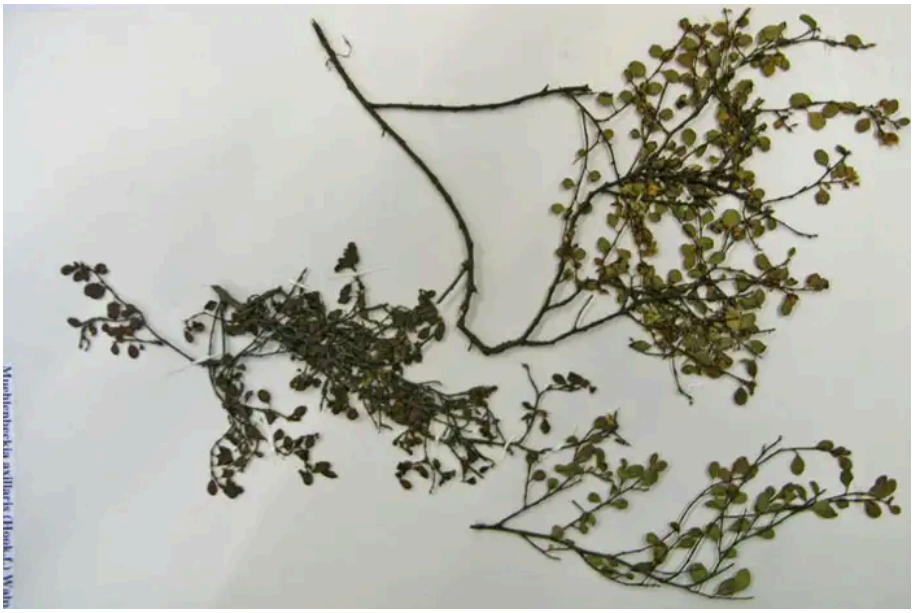
Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. They can also be grown by cuttings or by using layered shoots. Plants can be pruned or clipped.

NOTES

There are about 20 Muehlenbeckia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Crowe, A., 1997, A Field Guide to the Native Edible Plants of New Zealand. Penguin. p 38

Curtis, W.M., 1993, The Student's Flora of Tasmania. Part 3 St David's Park Publishing, Tasmania, p 593

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1993, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 6. Lothian. p 451

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 484

Greig, D., 1996, Flowering Natives for Home Gardens. Angus & Robertson. p 269

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 199

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

Tasmanian Herbarium Vascular Plants list p 45

Whiting, J. et al, 2004, Tasmania's Natural Flora. Tasmania's Natural Flora Editorial Committee PO Box 194, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia 7315 p 258

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/24f79903-5daa-4222-8997-8c134dfae055