PLANT FACT SHEET

Acrotriche aggregata R. Br.

GENUS *Acrotriche* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Tall groundberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Berries, Fruit

The fruit are eaten. They have a tangy taste.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows to 2 m high and spreads 1.5-2 m. The stem is erect and branched. The leaves are oblong and get more narrow towards the ends. They are 1-3 cm long. The tops of the leaves are without hairs but the underside is more pale with a bluish colour. The tips of the leaves are sharp. The flowers are small (o.3 cm long) and green. They are like tubes. They occur in short spikes in the angles where leaves join. They are usually on older wood. The fruit are pea sized about 0.6 cm across. They are almost round. As they ripen they turn from white to red. They are shiny and bright red. There is one seed inside. The flesh is edible.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. A plant native to New South Wales in Australia. It grows in the rainforest. It can also occur in drier places. It prefers light to medium soils. It will grow on sandy infertile soils. They need to be well drained. It needs slight shade but will grown in an open sunny position. It is drought resistant and can withstand slight frosts.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown by cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are produced March to July. Fruit can ripen almost any time fo the year.

NOTES

There are 14 Acrotriche species. They are in Australia. There are 4,050 species in the Ericaceae. Previously some of these were in the Ampetraceae, Epacridaceae, Monotropaceae and Pyrolaceae.

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