PLANT FACT SHEET

Lepidium africanum (Burman f.) DC

GENUS *Lepidium* **FAMILY** Brassicaceae

COMMON NAMES Common peppercress, Pepperweed

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds - spice

The leaves are eaten as a spinach.
The green seed is used as a spice.

DESCRIPTION

A cabbage family herb which re-grows each year from seed or can take 2 years to complete its life cycle. It can be 75-100 cm high. It branches in the upper part. It is a spreading plant with fine hairs. The stems are erect. The leaf blades are narrow and sword shaped. The leaves are sword shaped and 1-2 mm wide. They do not have stalks. They are in rings. They can have teeth. The leaves on the stem reduce in size up the stem. The flowers are green to purple. They are in groups in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. The flower cluster is dense. The petals are thread like and shorter than the sepals. The fruiting cluster are on stalked branches ripening from the bottom up. The stalks are 2-3 mm long. They are finely hairy. The fruit are small light brown pods. The pods are short and 2-3 mm long by 1.5-2 mm wide. There can be slight wings at the end. They have 2 seeds. The seeds are oval and 1-1.25 cm long.

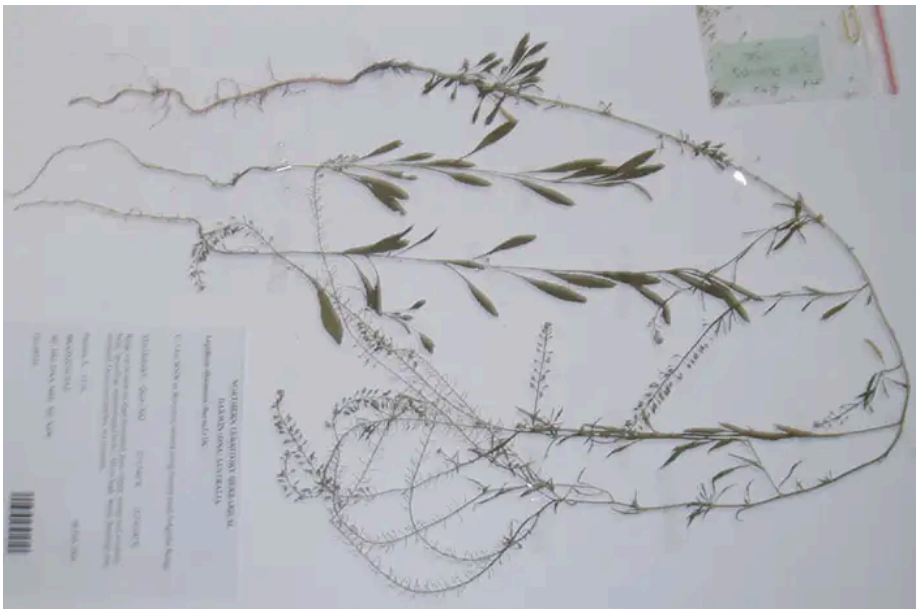
HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in hot arid areas that have a marked dry season. The dry season can be 6-11 months. It needs well-drained soils and grow in stony and sandy soils. It grows between 400-1,700 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. It will grow in most freely draining soils. It can grow in sunny or lightly shaded locations. Tasmania Herbarium.

NOTES

There are about 180 Lepidium species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/6136b007-e448-496c-a6bf-604371bcc984