PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Matricaria matricarioides* (Less.) Porter

**GENUS** *Matricaria* **FAMILY** Asteraceae

**COMMON NAMES** Rayless chamomile, Pineapple weed, Rayless mayweed, Rounded chamomile

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Flowers - tea, Leaves - tea

The flower heads are used, dried or fresh, to make chamomile tea.
The leaves are also similarly used for tea.
The flower heads can be used as a salad ingredient of use to flavour muffins and bread.
The plant tops are chewed by children for the pleasant flavour.

## DESCRIPTION

A herb. It is an annual plant. It is an erect leafless plant. It has a pineapple scent. The branches are stiff. It grows 40 cm high. The leaves are finely divided into feathery segments. They are divided 2 or 3 times. They are slightly bristly. It has a strong smell. The flower head consists only of a central disk. These are carried singly on a short stalk on each of the many branches. The centre of this head of flowers is hollow.

## HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It often grows on poor soils and gravel paths. It is naturalised in many places in the world. It is resistant to frost and drought. It grows on disturbed ground. It grows in forests and along roadsides in north China. Tasmania Herbarium.

## NOTES

There are 5 Matricaria species. They grow in temperate places.
The plant in Tasmania is probably Matricaria discoidea.

## PICTURES




Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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