PLANT FACT SHEET

Acrotriche serrulata (Labill.) R. Br.

GENUS *Acrotriche* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Southern heath, Ground berry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers, flower - nectar

Nectar can be sucked from the lower parts of the flower. The flowers can be soaked in water to make a drink. The fruit can also be eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows to 0.3 m high and spreads to 0.5 m across. The stem lies along the ground and is like a creeper. The branches stick upwards 15-30 cm. The leaves and narrow and taper towards the ends. They are small (0.7 cm long). The leaves have hairy edges and the edges roll under. The leaf stalks are pressed close to the stem. The flowers are green and tube shaped. The fruit are berries and green. There are 5-6 seeds. The flowers grow on old season's growth.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. A plant native to eastern Australia. It prefers light well drained soils. It suits an open sunny position or in light shade. It is drought and frost resistant. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

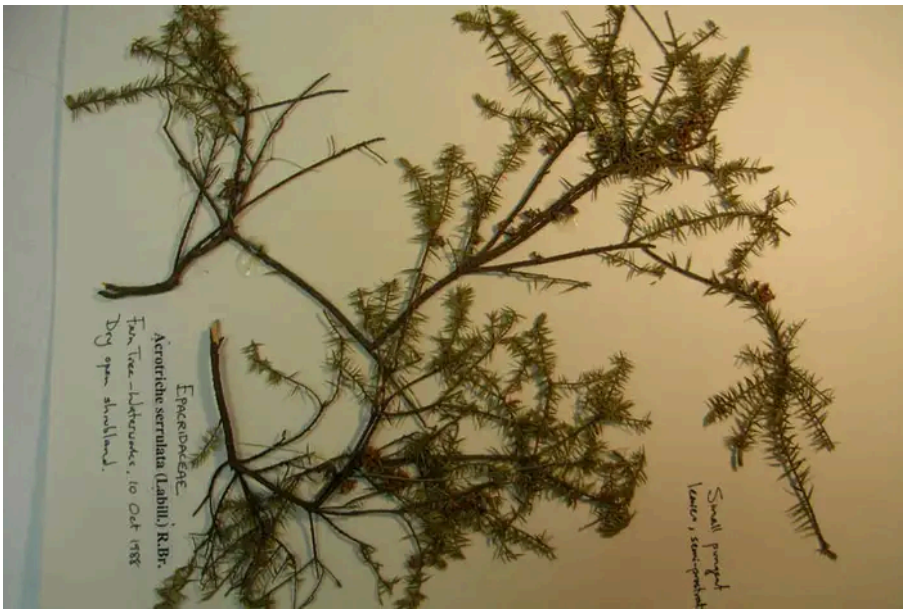
Cultivation

It can be grown from cuttings. This is somewhat difficult. They are usually slow to strike.

NOTES

There are 14 Acrotriche species. They are in Australia.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 47

Cherikoff V. & Isaacs, J., The Bush Food Handbook. How to gather, grow, process and cook Australian Wild Foods. Ti Tree Press, Australia p 194

Curtis, W.M., 1963, The Students Flora of Tasmania Vol 2 p 433, 440

De Angelis, D., 2005, Aboriginal Plant Use of the Greater Melbourne Area. La Trobe University Environment Collective

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1982, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 2. Lothian. p 145

Gilfedder, L et al, 2003, The Nature of the Midlands. Midlands Bushweb. PO Box 156 Longford, Tasmania. p 101

Hastings Advance Community College, 2017, Uses for Native Plants of the Mornington Peninsula. 86pp. p 12

Low, T., 1992, Bush Tucker. Australia's Wild Food Harvest. Angus & Robertson. p 172, 173

Steenbeeke, Greg as part of the Plants Directory project. List of plant species from northern NSW that may be used as food plants p 3

Tasmanian Herbarium Vascular Plants list p 25

Whiting, J. et al, 2004, Tasmania's Natural Flora. Tasmania's Natural Flora Editorial Committee PO Box 194, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia 7315 p 112

Zola, N., & Gott, B., 1992, Koorie Plants Koorie People. Koorie Heritage Trust. p 50

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/bca7c907-e739-4f88-91d5-037935ef1815