PLANT FACT SHEET

Vicia tetrasperma (L.) Schreb.

GENUS *Vicia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Smooth tare, Four-leaved slender vetch, Slender tare

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The young leaves and shoots are eaten.
They are also used as a coffee substitute.

DESCRIPTION

A slender scrambling annual herb. The leaves have 3-6 pairs of leaflets. They are usually alternate. They are narrowly oblong and 5-20 mm long by 1-3 mm wide. They have a very small sharp tip. The stalk of the leaf has a tendril at the end. There are 1 or 2 flowers in a group. The flower stalks are 2-4 cm long. The petals are pale blue and there is a purple spot on the keel. The pods are oblong and 10-15 mm long by 3.5 mm wide. There are usually 4 seeds. The pods are smooth and light brown. The seeds are almost round and 2 mm across. The seeds are brown.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. In China it grows from sea level to 2,900 m above sea level. Tasmania Herbarium. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 140 Vicia species. They are mostly temperate.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/df53e889-5e9d-482d-8e9b-82fdd0fa5094