



PLANT FACT SHEET

Acaena anserinifolia (Forst. & Forst.f.) Druce

GENUS *Acaena* FAMILY Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Bidgee widgee, Buzzy, New Zealand Bur

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea

A tea drink can be made from the dried leaves of this plant.

DESCRIPTION

A plant which continues growing from year to year. It grows to 0.4 m high and spreads 0.7 m. The stem is slender and branching. It almost lays along the ground and has wiry stems from a woody rootstock. It is a creeping plant. The leaves are divided. There are four pairs of oval leaflets. They are toothed along the edge. The leaf at its base forms a sheath on the stem. The flowers are greenish and in balls 0.6-1.2 cm across. The flowers stick up off the stems. and occur at the end of branches. It is a rose family plant but the flowers are very insignificant. The fruit are burrs. These have bristles each with a finely barbed head.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows naturally in eastern Australia. It prefers light to heavy soils. It is mostly in poorly drained sites. It is more common in protected and partly shaded places. It is frost resistant. It is damaged by drought. In Tasmania it grows up to 1300 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 6-10. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from cuttings. It can also be grown by dividing the rootstock. It can also be grown by seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The leaves are easily stripped off by running the hands along the stems. More leaves are needed than with tea.

NOTES

There are about 100 *Acaena* species. The name has been misapplied to *A. novae-zelandiae* in some areas. The plant in Tasmania is *Acaena novae-zelandiae*.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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