

Lepidium divaricatum

FAMILY

Brassicaceae

AUTHORITY

Lepidium W.T.Aiton

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DISTRIBUTION

Exotic. Native to South Africa.

HABITAT

In New Zealand the only known gathering (1908) was made from gravel along a railway track near Westport

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb up to 1 m high, much branched, base somewhat woody. Stems and branches puberulous. Branches spreading. Leaves glabrous adaxial midrib puberulous, petiolate, basal leaves 25-50(-150) mm, linear-oblong to narrowly obovate, apex acute, base cuneate, margins ciliolate, serrulate to serrate, sometimes sparingly lobed 1-2X, lobes short lanceolate margins entire; upper leaves similar, serrulate, serrate or weakly lobed. Racemes elongate, lax or subdense in fruit; rhachis puberulous. Pedicels 2.0-3.0-5.2 mm long in fruit, arcuate-spreading or ascending, adaxially puberulent. Sepals 0.7-1.0 mm long, oblong, green tinged with purple, margins membranous margins. Petals 0.3-1.0 mm long, narrowly oblong, white. Stamens 2, median. Nectaries triangular, small. Silicles 2.3-3.7 X 1.8-2.3 mm oblong to oblong-ovate, deeply notched, style included in the sinus. Seeds 1.0-1.4 x 0.5-0.8 mm, light brown.

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

FRUITING

December - May

WHERE HELD

AK Herbarium (Auckland Museum)

EXTANT COLLECTIONS

Known only from one gathering made by W. Townson from Westport in 1908 (specimens held at AK)

YEAR NATURALISED

1908

ORIGIN

South Africa

ETYMOLOGY

lepidium: Scale-shaped (pods)

divaricatum: Wide spreading

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lepidium-divaricatum/>

