

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Tathra



Unripe fruit and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, near Currarong



Stem with spine. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Seaford, Vic

Common name

Ground Asparagus, Asparagus 'Fern', Sprengeri Fern, Ground Asparagus Fern, Asparagus Vine

Family

Asparagaceae

Where found

Forest, woodland, parks, old gardens, disturbed sites, sand dunes, and along streams. Coastal. Ranges west of Sydney. Occasionally in the ranges elsewhere.

Notes

Introduced shrub or **perennial** herb, stems to 2 m long, usually sprawling, sometimes climbing. **Rhizomatous**. Spines to 10 mm long on the stems. Fruit fleshy. Stems ridged longitudinally, hairless. True leaves scale-like, 0.1-0.3 cm long, **subtending** the 'leaves'. 'Leaves' in clusters of 1-8, 1-2.5 cm long, 1.5-3 mm wide, flattened, hairless, with a small abrupt point. Flowers white to pinkish, with 6 **'petals'** each 3-5 mm long. Flowers in relatively dense elongated clusters 2-10 cm long. Flowering chiefly spring-summer; fruits all year. Fruit red when ripe, more or less round, 5-8 mm in diameter.

Was *Protasparagus aethiopicus*.

A Weed of National Significance. General Biosecurity Duty with additional restrictions in all NSW. Pest plant ACT. Noxious weed Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Asparagus~aethiopicus> (accessed 3 January, 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

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