

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Fruiting plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, ACT



Mature melons. Photographer Don Wood, Scotia Sanctuary, western NSW



Leaves. Photographer Chris Lindorff, Neds Corner Station Reserve, Lake Oullulleraine, Vic

Common name

Prickly paddy melon, Paddy melon, Gooseberry melon

Family

Cucurbitaceae

Where found

Woodland, grassy areas, road sides, disturbed sites, and along streams. Western Slopes. Tablelands north and east of the ACT. ACT. Occasionally elsewhere.

Notes

Introduced annual herb or climber, **prostrate** or to 2 m tall. Stems rough. Leaves **alternating** along the stems, 1-7.5 cm long, 10-80 mm wide, almost hairless on the top surface, hairy to bristly below, margins lobed, the lobes further lobed to toothed, lobed at the base. Male and female flowers on the same plant. Flowers yellow, about 6 mm in diameter, with 5 lobes. Male flowers in clusters of 2-4, **petals** 4-5 mm long; female flowers single or in pairs, petals 2-4 mm long. Flowers Summer to Autumn. Fruit green with pale stripes, or mottled, ripening yellow; with soft, often hooked, bristles. Fruit bitter, probably poisonous.

Was *Cucumis myriocarpus* subsp. *leptodermis*.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswf1&lvl=in&name=Cucumis~myriocarpus+subsp.~myriocarpus> (accessed 26 April 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

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