

Zieria smithii Jacks.

Family:
Rutaceae

Jackson, G. in Andrews, H.C. (1810) *The Botanists Repository* : t. 60. Type: Communicated last April by A.B. Lambert, esq., from his collection ..

Common name:
Sandfly Zieria; Turmeric; Sandfly Bush; Lanoline Bush; Zieria, Sandfly

Stem

Usually flowers and fruits as a shrub about 1-2 m tall.

Leaves

Leaflets rather small, about 2-3 x 0.7-1.1 cm, sessile. Leaflets very aromatic when crushed. Compound leaf petiole grooved or channelled on the upper surface. Lateral leaflets unequal sided at the base. Lateral veins scarcely visible on either the upper or lower surfaces of the leaflet blade. Lower surface of leaflet blade sparsely clothed in small stellate and simple hairs. Twigs and petioles clothed in stellate hairs. Twigs not longitudinally ribbed.

Flowers

Inflorescence not exceeding the leaves. Flowers about 6-7 mm diam. Calyx and corolla clothed in short stellate hairs. Stamens inserted outside the disk, filaments pubescent. Pollen yellow to orange. Disk consists of four large globular glands each one opposite a stamen. Ovary glabrous. Style glabrous. Stigma bright green, 4-lobed. Ovules 2 per carpel or locule.

Fruit

Each flower produces 3 or 4 follicles, each follicle contains 1 or 2 seeds. Calyx lobes stellate hairy, persistent at the base of each group of follicles. Testa hard. Aril thin and translucent.

Seedlings

Cotyledons linear, elliptic or clavate, about 5-10 x 2-3 mm. First pair of leaves trifoliolate and opposite. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf trifoliolate, leaflet blades sessile or shortly stalked, aromatic when crushed, oil dots visible to the naked eye, lateral veins looping inside the blade margin. Compound leaf petiole grooved on the upper surface. Leaf and stem hairs small, mainly simple but with a few stellate hairs included. Seed germination time 49 to 83 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as Victoria. Altitudinal range in NEQ from 700-1300 m. Grows as an understory plant in wet sclerophyll forest, occasionally on the edge of rain forest.

Natural History & Notes

This species produces an oil high in safrole.

Synonyms

Zieria smithii* Jacks. var. *smithii, *Flora Australiensis* 1: 307(1863). ***Zieria smithii* var. *typica* Domin**, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 837(1928). ***Zieria smithii* subsp. 'b'**, *Teloepa* 2: 87(1980). ***Zieria smithii* Jacks. subsp. B**, *Flora of New South Wales* 2: 244(1991). ***Zieria smithii* G. Jackson subsp. *tomentosa* J.A. Armstrong**, *Australian Systematic Botany* 15: 440(2002), Type: Queensland, Walsh Falls, J.A. Armstrong 1027, 9 Sept. 1977. Holo: BRI. Iso: BG, MEL, NSW, PERTH.

RFK Code

3192



Leaves and flowers. © Australian Plant Image Index (APII).
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Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon and 10th leaf stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



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