

Ericaceae

Acrotriche aggregata

ground-berry, red cluster heath



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Toohey-forest-Wildlife



Vi Pham

ETYMOLOGY

(ae-ro-TRICK-ee) Greek acros = end; referring to tuft of hairs at top or end of floral tube; The species aggregata (ag-re-GAR-tah) = clustered flowers clustered

LIFEFORM

Shrub 1-3 m x 1-2 m Spread

STATUS

Common per site

OCCURS

Atherton, N Q, Sunshine Coast SE Q, Picton, Yerranderie NSW

QLD DISTRICTS

Burnett, Cook, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Port Curtis, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Open forest, Subtropical/Wet Tropical/Complex Rainforest

LEAVES

Alternate, 1-3 cm, ovate to lanceolate, stiff, hairless, whorled at ends of branchlets; apex acute pungent prickly, base rounded firm to stiff, multi-veined, dark green above underside whitish to hairless on 1-2mm stalks;

FLOWERS

Tubular, Minute green to cream in clusters of 5-10 or on short spikes, tuft of hair at tip of petals; petals lobes with reflexed hairs at tip only; **Flowering times** March, April, May, June, July, Aug, Sept

FRUIT

Drupes, 4-7 mm, succulent, red, thin fleshy 4-5 hard cells, depressed globular with remains of style attached found under branches; **Fruiting** Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April July

STEM

Spreading multi-stemmed shrub with hairy stems and reddish, brown new growth;

ETHNOBOTANY

Edible fruit tasteless, C-lobes with reflexed hairs at tip only.

TOLERANCE

Drought tolerant

BIRD

emu, yellow-faced honeyeater

ID FEATURE

Leaves appearing pale blue-green below + Flowers 4-7 in clusters or spikes on old wood + Tufts of hair at ends of flower lobes Closely allied to *A. divaricata*;