

## Winteraceae

### *Tasmannia insipida* pepper bush

© CSIRO



© W.T. Cooper



Ann Moran  
Field Botanist



si29dh43 iNat



birdsami iNat



Craig Robbinsi iNat

#### ETYMOLOGY

(taz-MAN-ee-a) After Abel Tasman 1603-1659 Dutch discoverer of Tasmania; The species *insipida* = tasteless.

#### LIFEFORM

Shrub 2-5 m x 2-4 m Spread

#### STATUS

Occurs from north-eastern Qld to central and northern tableland of NSW; Introduced to cultivation in England in 1824; Recorded @ 235 locations (Moran, A 2009)

#### OCCURS

Kahlpahlim Rock SE Qld to NSW, Vic (NG)

#### QLD DISTRICTS

Cook, Darling Downs, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Port Cutris, Wide Bay

#### HABITAT

Subtropical/Dry Rainforest, Araucarian/Complex Notophyll Vine Forest

#### LEAVES

Alternate, 6-20 x 1-4 cm, lanceolate, thin, soft glossy both surfaces, tapering acuminate fine point, margins entire, square base, short 1-5 mm stalk, new growth is green.

#### FLOWERS

Terminal, umbel solitary, green white dioecious, male 20-30 stamens, female 1-9 free carpels on 1-3.5 cm peduncles; **Flowering Times** April, May, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov

#### FRUIT

Berries, 15 x 9 mm, ovoid grooved on 1 side fleshy purple-black in clusters; Seed reported to have peppery taste; **Fruiting Times** Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April, May, June

#### BARK

Hard dark bark

#### STEM

Shrub straggly, glossy, stalkless leaves.

#### ETHNOBOTANY

Plant contains *polydial* a potent antifungal compound; Edible white-purplish fruit flesh insipid, leaves, fruit and seeds have a hot, peppery taste. Glands are present as minute oil-dots; Contains Terpenes anti-bacteria.

#### LANDSCAPE USES

Useful foliage plant for sheltered location. Indoor plant.

#### BUTTERFLY

*Graphium macleayanum* macleay's swallowtail

#### ID FEATURE

Leaves tapers into very short stalk, paler below; Leaf has a peppery taste when chewed. Flowers stamens 55-70, fruiting carpels purple to white; Fruit 12-20mm oblong-ovoid berry on stalks.