INFORMATION SHEET – Variation in ‘heat’ of bush-sourced Mtn Pepper

The level of ‘heat’ (polygodial) in wild sourced Tasmanian Mountain Pepper (\textit{Tasmannia lanceolata}) varies dramatically – from next to nothing in some plants to high in others, and everything in-between. The figure below shows the polygodial levels in leaves from individual bushes within the same population at Winneleah, Tasmania (from Menary, Dragar, Thomas and Read, 2003. Mountain Pepper Extract \textit{Tasmannia lanceolata}: Quality stabilisation and registration. \textit{RIRDC Publication No 02/148}).

![Polygodial levels in leaves from individual bushes](image)

Major differences between the polygodial levels between populations from different geographic locations has also been shown (Read, C. & Menary, R. 2001. Leaf Extract and Polygodial Yield in \textit{Tasmannia lanceolate} (Poir.) A.C. Smith. \textit{Journal of Essential Oil Research} 13, 348-350).

There is little to no work undertaken on the polygodial levels in the pepperberries or the dried peppercorns, but it is a fair assumption that the levels in the berry are highly correlated with levels in the leaf. Bronzewing Farm® Tasmanian DEVIL Mountain Peppers® have been found to contain 25 g/kg of polygodial (Dr. Kim-Yen Phan-Thien, University of Sydney, 2014).

Information updated: 12/05/2017

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