

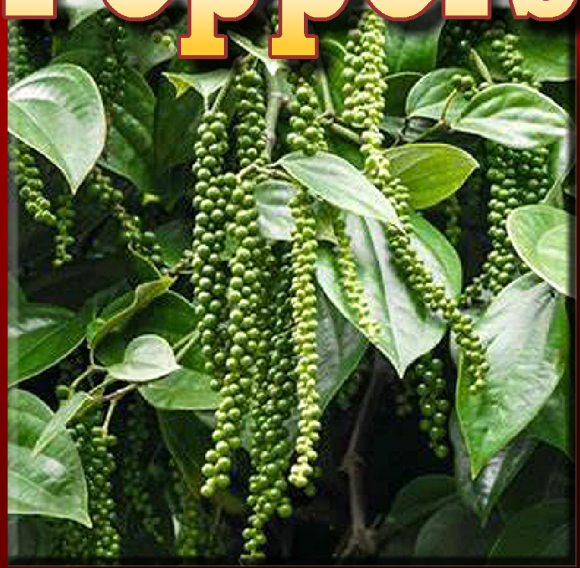
PIPERALES

(Paleoherbs)

Lizard Tails



Peppers



Bithworts



(not native to Mojave Desert)

SAURURACEAE

(Lizard Tails)

Yerba Mansa

(*Anemopsis californica*)



riparian habitat

Red Rock Cyn NCA; NV



furry stems

HBVP; Henderson, NV



May

Red Spring; Red Rock Canyon NCA; NV



conic spike

Tecopa Hot Springs; CA



broad leaves

HBVP; Henderson, NV

- Flowers:** perfect; aggregate (~100); terminal conic spike; 4-9 white bracts*; aromatic; green yellow*; 1.5"
- Stems:** erect; numerous; unbranched; hollow, pubescent; green; to 20"
- Leaves:** elliptic to cordate; entire; mainly basal; sub-sessile to clasping; green; 8"
- Blooms:** March to September (varies depending on location)
- Range:** southwestern US; northwestern Mexico
- Habitat:** wet, alkaline; riparian (marshes, streams, springs, etc.); Lower to Upper Sonoran Life Zones

Notes:

common; perennial rhizomous herb; grows to 1' or more in the sw US from CA/OR east to TX/OK and south to nw MEX at elevations of 2,000-6,000'; only member of the genus *Anemopsis*; *aging to pinkish; brown, .28" capsule fruit bearing 6-10 tiny, reticulate, brown seeds; 2 varieties; aka **Lizard's Tail**; powdered roots traditionally used in various topical and internal medical applications (sores, burns, disinfectant, etc.; ulcers, laxative, emetic, etc.)

Mojave presence: native

Comments:

The blooms of this plant make the species easily identifiable. What appears to be a "flower" is actually a combination of *large white bracts (look like petals) subtending a cone-shaped spike bearing an aggregate of up to 100 tiny petalless and bractless flowers, each in turn subtended by a small, white, paddle-shaped bract.