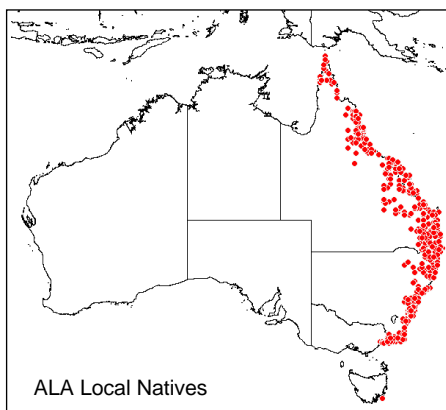


Luzuriagaceae

Eustrephus latifolius

wombat berry



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M Fox



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ETYMOLOGY

(YOO-streff-us) Greek eu = well + strepho = to twist because of twinning habit of some forms of species: The species latifolius = having broad leaves;

LIFEFORM

Vine 1-6 m long

STATUS

Widespread, Common per site

OCCURS

Primarily coastal eastern Australia.

HABITAT

Coastal rocky Gullies, Open forest, Sand dunes

TOLERANCES

Dry conditions. Tolerates extended periods of dryness once established.

LEAVES

Thin to stalkless 3-11 cm lance-shaped glabrous, conspicuous longitudinal prominently veins;

FLOWERS

White, 15 mm, pale pink with very hairy petals and occur in spring in the upper leaf axils; Clusters of loose pinkish 3 fringed petals 3 sepals; **Flowering Times:** Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April

FRUIT

Globular, 1-2 cm, globular, fleshy yellow-orange, splitting to show numerous 8-12 polished black seeds with white sweet pulp aril; **Fruiting Times:** Feb, March, April, May, June, July, Aug, Sept

ROOTS

Roots fusiform often tuberous

STEM

Vine with stems, sometimes much branched, and with narrow-leaved forms occur occasionally.

ETHNOBOTANY

Edible white tuberous roots eaten raw also white aril pulp around the seeds are edible; seed/fruit. Stems killed, after high-intensity fire but may resprout from base within 3 months

INSECTS

Cryptoptila immersana (ivy leafroller), *Aproidea balyi* (Two-tailed Leaf Beetle) pollinated by *Apis mellifera* European honeybees; small beetles (Coleoptera)

BIRD

Fruit eaten by Currawongs, King parrots

INDIGENOUS USES

Tubers eaten by Aborigines; Fleshy roots are very sweet eaten raw

COMMENTS

Can be confused with Scrambling Lily which has larger stalk & one midrib on top of leaf. It is not excessively vigorous and is unlikely to become a problem by smothering other plants.