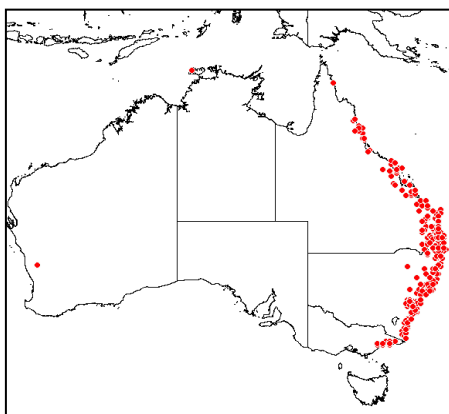


Luzuriagaceae

Geitonoplesium cymosum

scrambling lily



Ann Moran

Field Botanist

ETYMOLOGY

(guy-ton-o-PLÉEZ-ee-um) Greek geiton = neighbour + plesios = near; because of its close affinity to genus Luzuriaga; ; The species cymosum = flowers are in cymes;

LIFEFORM

5-10 m long Vine

ORIGIN

Sunshine Coast Q, Bulga S F NSW, Gippsland Vic (Oversea)

HABITAT

Open forest, Rainforest, AMVf, ANVf, CNVf, LMVf, SEVT

LEAVES

Alternate, 2-13 cm x 2-35 mm, ovate linear, lanceolate sessile dark shiny green with numerous fine longitudinal parallel veins on 0.5-1.5 mm stalks;

FLOWERS

White, 10-22 mm drooping pale pink, star-shaped, 5-11 mm 3 petals + 3 sepals, similar, 4-10 stamens, elliptic segments in 2 whorls, (strongly scented) inner segments lack hairs, in clusters;

Flowering Times: Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb

FRUIT

Berries, 7-20 mm, fleshy globular, purple-black in clusters; Numerous black angular seeds inside pulp, testa hard; Bird & vertebrate adapted dispersal; **Fruiting Times:** Feb, March, April, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov

ROOTS

Roots Fibrous yellowish or curry-coloured;

STEM

Wiry slender twinning vine striate green 4-angled stems

ETHNOBOTANY

Edible young shoots raw/cooked tastes like peas, (Clockwise climber) Bird attracting fruits
Decoction of leaves to treat smallpox

BIRD

Bird attracting fruits: Figbird (seen) Rose-crowned Fruit-dove, Mistletoebird, Satin Bowerbird

INDIGENOUS USES

Stems used as rough rope for house-building in New Guinea.

ID FEATURES

Raised midrib above; narrow form confused with *Eustrephus latifolius* which has parallel veins, raised below at first glance stalkless with orange fruit;