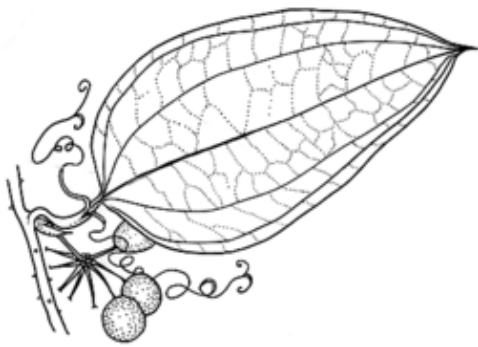


Ripogonaceae
Smilax australis
 barbwire vine



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ETYMOLOGY

(SMY-lax) Greek meant yew-tree wood used to make weapons; Climbers The Latin species australis = Southern;

LIFEFORM

Vine 7-8m long

STATUS

Recorded at 1467 locations

ORIGIN

Sunshine Coast Q, NSW, Vic, WA, Pine CK NT

HABITAT

Creekbanks, Openforest STRf, WTRf, CTRf, LRf, DRf, SEVT

LEAVES

Alternate, 5-15 x 3-10 cm, ovate, broadly elliptic, hairless, glossy, with prominent venation, smooth thick leathery, oblong, dark green above paler below, with 3-5 longitudinal veins tendrils present on curved 1 cm stalks;

FLOWERS

Umbels, 3-6 mm, yellow, cream, star-shaped, Petals 3, sepals 3, similar, ovate scented; Dioecious in globular 2.5 cm in axillary umbel clusters; **Flowering Times** June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

FRUIT

Drupes, 5-10 mm, globose, black berry/grape-like in umbels; Seeds 1-2, flattened dark brown; **Fruiting Times** May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

STEM

Twining, stems usually prickly, hairless, Stipules modified into tendrils, falling from older stems. Fine tendrils, along many tough thorns short, sharp hard stems with scattered prickles;

ETHNOBOTANY

Edible ripe fruit: can be slightly hot; Citrus scented flowers, Extract made from leaves: drunk as tonic or applied to treat sore eyes; Habitat for small birds;

INSECTS

Lilioceris bakewelli (Red Narrow-necked Leaf Beetles) Green Ants (Black) nest in leaves seen;

BIRD

Wompoo Fruit-dove, Regent Bowerbirds, Victoria's Riflebirds

BUTTERFLY

Hypochrysops miskini (Coral Jewel & Fiery Jewel), *Protographium leosthenes* (Fourbar Swordtail), *Pseudodipsas cephenes* (Dark Forest-blue), *Hypolycaena phorbis* (Black-spotted Flash)

ABORIGINAL USES

Edible fruits: sweet black fruit eaten when ripe, extracts from leaves and bark used medicinally to treat sore eyes used as a tonic; woody stems used as fire sticks to ignite fire when rubbed together,

ID FEATURE

Three distinct longitudinal veins paired tendrils present at the base of most leaves;