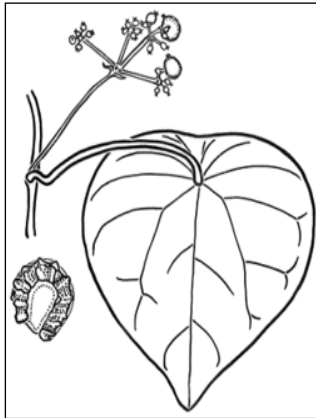
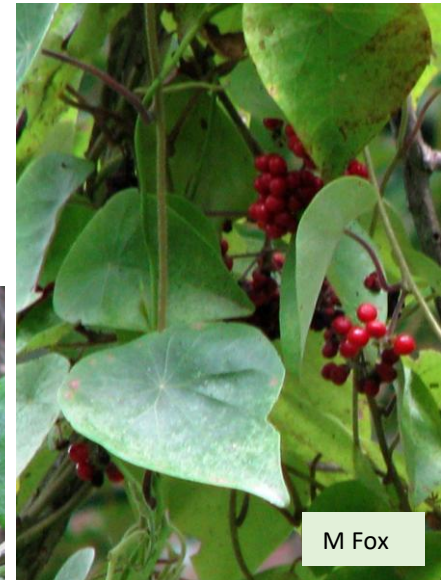


Menispermaceae
Stephania japonica
 var. *discolor*

tape vine



Ann Moran
 Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(steff-AIN-ee-a) Greek a crown alluding to anthers being united and forming a crown;
 The species japonicus = from Japan;

LIFEFORM

Creeper 3m long

STATUS

Widespread species probably reasonably conserved;

OCCURS

Agnes Water Qld to NSW, NT (NG, Mal, Asia)

HABITAT

Coastal dunes, Moist gullies, Creekbanks

LEAVES

Alternate, 4-18 cm, entire, peltate soft thin shiny green above paler grey below palmately veined visible both sides petiole long thin sometimes reddish slightly swelling at base.

FLOWERS

Umbels of axillary dioecious, small, greenish brown flowers with 3-5 sepals and petals;

Flowering Times Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April

FRUIT

Drupes, 2-5 mm, compressed laterally, changing from green yellow to bright red at maturity;

Seeds with distinctive markings; **Fruiting Times** May June

STEM

Thin climber with slender stemmed twiner without prickles;

ETHNOBOTANY

Root/tuber treat diarrhoea, stomach ache, fevers. Fruits & roots bitter, contain numerous alkaloids which are poisonous to frogs; Contains 20 Alkaloid ingredients (Aknadine)

Ayurvedic drugs, Vertebrate-adapted fleshy fruit (Westoby et al 1990)

INSECTS

Calyptra minuticornis, *Plusiodonta coelonota*, *Othreis fullonia* (Moth larva)

BIRD

Fruit eaten by Olive backed Orioles, Lewin's Honeyeaters

INDIGENOUS USES

Rhizomes, (underground stems) reputed to edible after pounded & baking; Leaves/berries crushed used as fish poison.