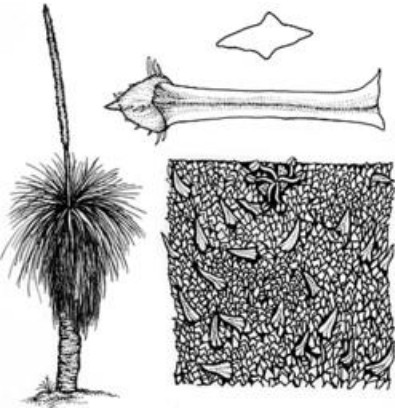


Xanthorrhoeaceae

Xanthorrhoea johnsonii

forest grasstree



ALA Local Natives

Ann Moran

Field Botanist



Martin Bennett iNat

ETYMOLOGY

(zanth-o-REE-a) Greek xanthos = yellow + rheo = flow, referring to yellow resin in type species; The species johnsonii (JOHN-son-I) After L.A.S. Johnson NSW Govt Botanist joint collector of the type specimen of this species

LIFEFORM

Shrub 1-5m

STATUS

Widespread in coastal and inland ranges, Qld to north of Hunter River NSW (southern geographical limit Howes Valley NSW)

OCCURS

Curramore Sanctuary Qld to Singleton, NSW

HABITAT

Open Eucalypt Woodland

LEAVES

Basal, rhombic, diamond-shape, rigid, arching skirt-like with age, slender quadrangular in cross-section grey-grass on 1m stalks.

FLOWERS

Spike 20-120 x 2-4 cm, white & cream, narrow cylindrical, cone-like longer than scape & floral bracts shortly pointed on 75-190 cm stalks. **Flowering times** Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec Capsules, 3-lobed embedded in woody spike with tiny black flattened 3 seeds.

FRUIT

Fruiting times Nov, Dec

BARK

Bark is blackened by fires over years hence old name of 'Black Boys' which is not used now Single trunked plant (usually unbranched) with clumps of grass like leaves.

TRUNK or STEM

ETHNOBOTANY

Pioneers used gum obtained from roots and softened in fire as glue;

LANDSCAPE USES

Grown in large containers

TOLERANCE

Full sun, thrives in sandy or stoney soils

WILDLIFE

Flowers attract butterflies, flies, and beetles. Important pollen source native bees. Blossom Bat, Flying Foxes, Squirrel Glider (on motion sensor camera), Sugar Glider, Mahogany Glider, Common Brush-tailed Possum

NATIVE BEES

Amegilla pulchra blue-banded bee *Tetragonula carbonaria*

INSECTS

Diphucrania duodecimmaculata, *Glycyphana stolata* brown flower beetle, *Hyaletis latro*, *Meyriccia latro* *Moerarchis australasiella*, (Moth) Edible grubs found at base of trunk.

BIRD

Flowers visited by Silvereye, Brown Honeyeater, Scarlet Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Pale-headed Rosella (fr), Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (fr)

BUTTERFLY

Nectar only *Danaus chrysippus petilia* Lesser Wanderer, *Danaus plexippus* Monarch, *Melanitis leda bankia* Evening Brown, *Euploea core corinna*, *Tirumala hamata* Blue Tiger, *Vanessa kershawi* Australian painted lady (Flowers Only)

INDIGENOUS USES

Whitish leaf bases eaten raw and cooked. Seeds crushed to make flour; Nectar collected for food; dry flower stalks used in fishing spears and for fire-making; trunk a source of resin (Cribb & Cribb 1982)

ID FEATURE

Stems erect, covered with packed leaf-base; Leaves linear, 2.5 mm wide or less, tough and hard crowded at the top + Inflorescence long cylindrical woody spike. Fruit a capsule. Young leaves spreading upright tuft, old leaves reflexed. Spike longer or equal to stem (scape).