

Commelinaceae
Murdannia graminea
 blue grass lily, swamp lily



Ann Moran
 Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(mer-DAN-ee-a) named After Murdan Aly a plant collector and keeper of N Indian Herbarium; The species graminea = grass-like referring to the leaves.

LIFEFORM

Herb 10-60 cm x 30 cm spread

STATUS

Well conserved, Widespread Uncommon per site (population size) Qld, NSW, WA

OCCURS

Stanthorpe, Moorland Qld, Gundagai NSW, WA, NT

QLD DISTRICTS

Burke, Burnett, Cook, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Maranoa, Mitchell, Moreton, North/ South Kennedy, Port Curtis, Warrego, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Coastal lowlands, Creekbanks, Swamps, Damp Areas

LEAVES

Alternate, 5-30 x 2-11 mm, lily-like, hairy, linear, with pale brown sheath at base of blade.

FLOWERS

Purple flower with 3 broad fragile, mauve, pink, 25 cm petals; Six 6 stamens at end of long stalks; **Flowering times** March, April, May

FRUIT

Capsules, 6-10 mm, ovoid, enclosed in persistent sepal; Splitting open to release grey-brown pitted angular 4 to 5 seeds; **Fruiting times** Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April

ROOTS

Thick, <600 tuberous roots.

STEM

Grass-like perennial herb, often unnoticed unless flowering.

ETHNOBOTANY

Tubers roots eaten raw, but bland and fibrous.

WILDLIFE

Morning flowering pollinated by blue-banded fly.

NATIVE BEES

Tetragonula carbonaria (previously known as *Trigona carbonaria*)

INDIGENOUS USES

Tubers are cooked in hot Ashes; Aborigines ate the tubers raw or cooked (without any unpleasant flavour)

ID FEATURE

Herb with tuft of leaves at ground level + Flower blue + Panicle terminal and branches + Staminal filaments bearded