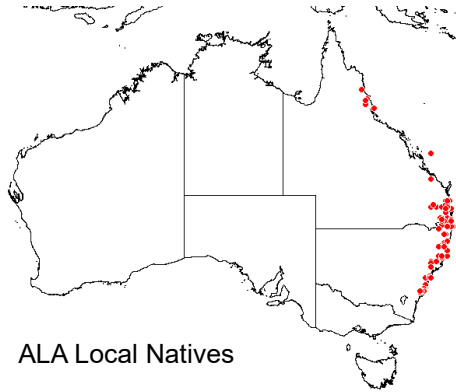


Commelinaceae

Polia crispata

Polia

Ann Moran
Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(Polia) After Jan van de Poll (1726-1781) of Amsterdam; The species *crispata* = waved, twisted; referring to ruffled edge of leaf base.

LIFEFORM

Herb 30 cm

STATUS

Common in Coastal Qld to north from Cambewarra Range, inland to Belmore Falls and Elands NSW; Recorded @ 223 Locations (Moran, A 2009)

OCCURS

Atherton to Buderim Qld, Border Ranges NE NSW

QLD DISTRICTS

Burnett, Cook, Darling Downs, Moreton, North Kennedy, Port Curtis, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Creekbanks, Streams Rainforest, Complex / Araucarian Notophyll Vine Forest

LEAVES

Whorled, 10-18 x 3.5 cm, lanceolate, stem-clasping, dark green on thin stems undulate crisp margins, tapering at the base; narrow-ovate, hairless, apex acuminate, tapering at the base; sheath 2.5-3.5 cm.

FLOWERS

White, 3.5-5 cm, (3 petals 3 sepals) in terminal, almost stalkless; Outer tepals imbricate. inner tepals 4-6 mm, Fertile 3 stamens + 3 staminodes; **Flowering times** Nov, Dec, Jan

FRUIT

Nuts 5-6 mm small oval blue; seeds grey; **Fruiting times** March, April, May

ROOTS

Rooting at the nodes

STEM

Scrambling perennial herb with ascending stems.

LANDSCAPE USES

Plant grows in wet and shade; Useful for understory rainforest, Indoor plant or hanging basket

TOLERANCE

Part sun to shade can withstands cold.

ID FEATURE

Margins of leaf sheaths undulate-crisped; branches of panicles not in whorls; Leaves undulate around the orifice; spreading herb forming a mat;