

Blumea sylvatica (Blume) DC.

Family:

Asteraceae

Candolle, A.P. de (1836) *Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis* 5: 447.

Stem

Usually flowers and fruits as a shrub 1-1.5 m tall.

Leaves

Lateral veins forming loops inside the blade margins. Both the upper and lower surface of the leaf blades clothed in pale, rather sparse +/- prostrate hairs. Leaf blade margin with about 6-10 teeth on each side. Leaf blades about 10-17 x 2-5 cm.

Flowers

Inflorescence a panicle of heads. Heads consist mainly of female flowers with just a few hermaphrodite flowers in the centre. Individual flowers about 1 mm diam. Each flower surrounded by a ring of about 16-18 barbed hairs about 6 mm long. Perianth about 7 mm long. Staminal filaments about 3 mm long and free, anthers about 2 mm long, fused to form a tube around the style. Style about 9 mm long. Ovary hairy, stigma bilobed.

Fruit

Achenes about 1-2 mm long, clothed in tiny bristles, pappus about 5 mm long, each bristle armed with microscopic barbs or teeth. Cotyledons about the same size as the radicle.

Seedlings

Cotyledons about 1.5-3 x 1.5-3 mm. First pair of leaves with 1 or 2 teeth on each side. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade margin serrate, both the upper and lower surfaces hairy and the lateral veins forming loops inside the blade margin. Seed germination time 14 to 15 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NEQ and CEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 900 m. Grows along roads and in clearings in rain forest. Also occurs in Malesia and the Pacific islands.

Natural History & Notes

In upper Naitasiri Province, Fiji, the name *viavia* tobacco has been noted, and an extract from the leaves is used for sore eyes (St John 19287). A.C. Smith (991).

Synonyms

***Conyza sylvatica* Blume**, *Bijdragen tot de flora van Nederlandsch Indie* 15: 899 (1826), Type: "in montanis Megamendung." (Java, Indonesia).

RFK Code

3162



Flowers. © S.G. McKenna



Flowers. © S.G. McKenna



Flowers. © S.G. McKenna



Habit, leaves and flowers. © S.G. McKenna



Leaves. © S.G. McKenna



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

