

Clematis pickeringii A.Gray

Family:

Ranunculaceae

Gray, A. (1854) *United States Exploring Expedition (Wilkes Expedition) Botany. Phanerogamia* 1: 1. Type: Queensland, Eastern Islands, Dr Pickering & Mr Brackenridge. Holo: GH.

Common name:

Clematis, Tropical; Tropical Clematis

Stem

Vine stem diameters to 8 cm recorded. Dead bark dark brown. Wood may produce a clear jelly-like exudate.

Leaves

Leaflet blades 3-5-veined, about 5-12.5 x 2.5-7 cm, leaflet stalks about 1-4 cm long. Compound leaf petioles and leaflet stalks both modified to form a type of tendril when suitably stimulated. Compound leaf petioles about 9-15 cm long. Terminal buds densely clothed in pale brown to golden hairs.

Flowers

Flowers cream, about 12 mm diam., perfumed. Tepals about 5-10 x 2-3 mm, hairy on the outer surface. Male flowers: Stamens about 40. Female flowers: Staminodes ten. Carpels 30-40, each carpel green and densely clothed in white silky hairs which extend to the apex of the style. Ovary + style and stigma about 7-8 mm long. Ovules one per carpel.

Fruit

About 10-20 fruiting carpels per cluster. Each fruiting carpel ending in a long hairy tail about 4 cm long. Seeds about 2.5-3 x 1-1.5 mm. Endosperm quite hard. Embryo tiny, about 0.15 - 0.2 mm long, cotyledons just discernible.

Seedlings

Cotyledons ovate, about 7-10 x 5-6 mm, apex obtuse perhaps mucronate, base attenuate. Venation not obvious. First pair of leaves produced just above the cotyledons almost forming a whorl with the cotyledons. First pair of leaves ovate to cordate, 3-veined, margins toothed. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade cordate, apex acuminate, base auriculate, margin toothed with 5-7 teeth on each side but mainly towards the base. Lateral veins three or four on each side of the midrib. Petiole about as long as the leaf blade and twisted to form a tendril. Seed germination time 38 to 55 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as central eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range in northern Australia from near sea level to 1100 m. Grows in vine thicket, monsoon forest, lowland and upland rain forest. Also occurs in Malaysia and the Pacific islands.

Natural History & Notes

Sometimes cultivated, this is a vigorous and showy vine that needs to be trained over a trellis or fence.

Synonyms

***Clematis aristata* subsp. *pickeringii* (A.Gray) Kuntze**, *Verhandlungen des Botanischen Vereins f~yr die Provinz Brandenburg* 26: 156(1885). ***Clematis Rhodocarpoides* W.T. Wang**, *Acta Phyto. Sin.* 42: 65(2004), Type: Queensland, Roberts Plateau, Lamington National Park, 20 Mar. 1943, C.T. White 12048. Holo: K. Iso: BRI. ***Clematis queenslandica* W.T. Wang**, *Acta Phyto. Sin.* 42: 67(2004), Type: Australia, Brunett (?), F. Mueller. Holo: K. Iso: MEL. ***Clematis aristata* var. *glycinoides* F. Muell. ex Kuntze**, *Verh. K. K. Zool. -Bot. Ges. Wien* 37: 50(1887), Type: Timor, DR Naumann. Holo: B?. ***Clematis glycinoides* var. *submutica* Benth.**, *Flora Australiensis* 1: 7(1863), Type: Clarence river and Brisbane river, Herb. F. Mueller. ***Clematis glycinoides* DC.**, *Queensland Flora* 1: 5(1899).

RFK Code

2063



Female flowers. © CSIRO



Male flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and female flowers. © CSIRO



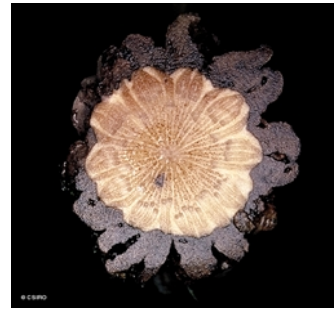
Leaves and male flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruits. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



Vine stem transverse section. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Vine stem bark. © CSIRO



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