

Deeringia amaranthoides (Lam.) Merr.

Family:

Amaranthaceae

Merrill, E.D. (1917) *An Interpretation of Rumphius's Herbarium Amboinense* : 211.

Common name:

Deeringia

Stem

Usually grows as a large tree top vine but occasionally flowers and fruits as a shrub. Vine stem diameters up to 5 cm recorded. Concentric rings visible in transverse sections of the stem.

Leaves

Leaf blades about 2.7-15 x 1-8 cm, petioles about 0.4-3.5 cm long, grooved on the upper surface. Twigs longitudinally ribbed.

Flowers

Each flower subtended by a bract and two small bracteoles. Pedicels about 0.7-2 mm long. Perianth segments about 1.5-2.5 mm long. Anthers white, filaments white, fused to form a ring or cup at the base of the ovary, pollen white. Each ovule attached to the placenta by a long funicle.

Fruit

Fruits bright red when ripe, sessile, about 4-7 mm diam., perianth segments reflexed, persistent at the base, style scar present at the apex. Seeds attached by comparatively long funicles to a central point at the base of the fruit.

Seedlings

Cotyledonary petioles comparatively long, almost as long as the blades of the cotyledons, blades about 7-10 x 5-7 mm. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade ovate or lanceolate, apex acuminate, base cuneate to almost rounded, lateral veins form definite loops well inside the blade margin. Leaf blade about 50-60 x 30 mm, petiole about 11-20 mm long. Terminal buds and young shoots clothed in pale hairs. Seed germination time 17 to 298 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in WA, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as south-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range in northern Australia from near sea level to about 800 m. Grows in rain forest, particularly the drier types. Also occurs in Asia and Malesia.

Natural History & Notes

This species has been used medicinally in Indonesia. Cribb (1981).

Synonyms

Achyranthes amaranthoides Lam., *Enc. Meth. Bot.* 1: 548(1785), Type: Syntypes: Sonnerat, Java; Rumphius, *Herb. Amb.* 5: t. 83. f. 2. 1747 (Moluccas). **Deeringia baccata** (Retz.) Moq., *Prodromus* 13(2): 236(1849). **Deeringia indica** Retz. ex. Bl., *Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind.* : 542(1826), Type: Syntypes: In fruticetis prope Linga Jattie Provinciae Cheribon, (W. Java); Amboina (Moluccas). **Deeringia celosioides** R.Br., *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae* : 413(1810). **Celosia baccata** Retz, *Obs. Bot.* 5: 23(1788), Type: In herb. Retz., comm. Konig.

RFK Code

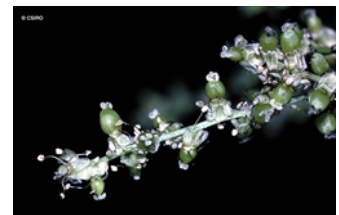
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Flowers. © R.L. Barrett



Flowers. © R.L. Barrett



Male and female flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and flowers. © CSIRO



Fruits. © CSIRO



Fruit. © B. Gray



Habit and leaves. © R.L. Barrett



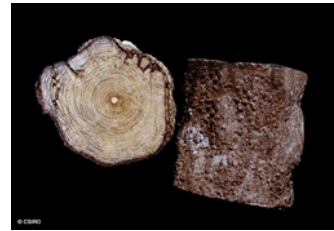
Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



Vine stem bark and vine stem transverse section. © CSIRO



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