

Passiflora herbertiana Ker Gawl.

Family:

Passifloraceae

Ker Gawler, J.B. (1823) *Edwards' Botanical Register* 9: t. 73. Type: The sample for the drawing ..ex the collection of Highland .. raised from seed gathered in the interior of New Holland, A Cunningham.

Common name:

Native Passionfruit; Yellow Passion Flower; Native Passion Flower

Stem

A slender vine not exceeding a stem diameter of 2 cm.

Leaves

Leaf blades three-lobed (lobes pointed) blades about 7-11 x 6.5-9.5 cm, petioles about 1.5-3 cm long with globular glands attached to the sides just below its junction with the leaf blade. Lateral veins about 8-12 on each side of the midrib. Both the upper and lower leaf blade surfaces clothed in short soft hairs. Two large glands usually present on the underside of the leaf blade well away from the midrib and major lateral veins. Stipules filiform, about 3-7 mm long. Tendrils simple, axillary.

Flowers

Flowers about 6-10 cm diam. on a stalk about 1.5-2.5 cm long. Sepals about 3-4.5 cm long. Petals about 2.5-4 cm long. Androphore about 2.5-3 cm long, free staminal filaments about 1.5 cm long. Anthers about 10 mm long. Styles about 10-14 mm long, stigmas +/- globular. Corona fimbriate, filaments about 5-13 mm long. Ovules very numerous.

Fruit

Fruits obovoid, about 2.5-5 x 1.5-4 cm. Seeds numerous, each seed about 3-3.5 x 2-2.5 mm, apex pointed, sometimes slightly hooked. Seeds immersed in a yellowish green sweet-smelling pulp. Testa surface pitted. Embryo about 1 mm long. Cotyledons orbicular, about 1 mm diam. Radicle shorter or up to 1 mm long, much narrower than the cotyledons.

Seedlings

Cotyledons elliptic, about 8-10 x 5-6 mm. Midrib does not extend to the apex of the cotyledon but is replaced by a complex network of dichotomous branches arising from the midrib and lateral veins. Hypocotyl glabrous. First leaves three-lobed (each lobe mucronate) and three-veined. Third leaf blade much wider than long, apex truncate. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade much wider than long, apex truncate and apiculate, base truncate, margin sinuate. Lateral veins 1 or 2 on each side of the midrib. Leaf blade very pale and sparsely clothed in hairs on the underside, upper surface glabrous. Petiole slender, much longer than the leaf blade. Stipules linear-lanceolate, about 1 mm long, fragile and easily broken. Tendrils simple (unbranched) axillary. Seed germination time 57 to 89 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Australia, occurs in NEQ and in south east Queensland and southwards as far as south-eastern New South Wales. Not recorded from CEQ. Altitudinal range in NEQ from 750-1200 m. Grows in disturbed areas in upland rain forest.

Natural History & Notes

This species is suspected of poisoning stock. Everist (1974).

Food plant for the larval stages of the Glasswing Butterfly. Common & Waterhouse (1981).

Sometimes cultivated for the large flowers. Plants can be short lived.

Synonyms

Disemma herbertiana DC., *Prodromus* 3: 332(1828). **Disemma herbertiana** DC. var. **herbertiana**, *Prodromus* 3: 333(1828). **Murucaia herbertiana** (Ker Gawl.) Sweet, *Sweet's Hortus Britannicus* 2: 355(1826). **Passiflora herbertiana** Ker Gawl. subsp. **herbertiana**, *Kew Bulletin* 26: 550(1972). **Passiflora herbertiana** Ker Gawl. var. **herbertiana**, *Transactions of the Linnean Society of London, Botany* 27: 634(1871). **Passiflora verruculosa** Weinm., *Sylloge Plantarum Novarum, Ratisbonae* 1: 228(1824), Type: Inter semina e Nove Hollandia missa excrevit haecce pulchra species. Floret (in Tepidariis nostris) mensibus Julii et Augusti. **Disemma herbertiana** var. **caleyana** DC., *Prodromus* 3: 333(1828), Type: In Novae-Hollandiae .. Caley! in h. Lamb. **Passiflora herbertiana** var. **caleyana** (DC.) Mast., *Transactions of the Linnean Society of*



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and flower. © A. Ford & F. Goulter



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

London, Botany 27 : 634(1871). **Disemma caleyana (DC.) M.Roem.**, *Familiarum Naturalium Regni Vegetabilis Synopses Monographicae* 2 : 189(1846).

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Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



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