

Pseudovanilla foliata (F.Muell.) Garay

Family:

Orchidaceae

Garay, L.A. (1986) *Botanical Museum Leaflets of Harvard University* 30: 235.

Common name:

Orchid, Large Climbing; Large Climbing Orchid; Orchid, Giant Climbing

Stem

A slender vine not exceeding a stem diameter of 2 cm, climbing by means of adventitious roots produced at the nodes.

Leaves

Leaf blades often yellowish, lacking chlorophyll, somewhat fleshy, +/- orbicular, about 4.5-6 x 1-3.7 cm. Venation longitudinal and parallel with three to five veins more prominent than the rest.

Flowers

Inflorescence large and showy bearing 150 or more flowers. Flowers about 50-60 mm diam. Sepals linear, about 23-25 x 5-9 mm. Labellum red except for the yellow margin, about 20 x 17 mm, channelled at the base and expanded at the apex. Stamen and stigma fused to form a column about 12 mm long. Anther about 2.5-3 x 2 mm. Ovary about 10 mm long. Stigmatic surface about 2 x 2 mm.

Fruit

Fruits about 19-27 x 1-1.2 cm, splitting along the sides but the segments remaining attached at the base and the apex. Seeds very numerous, winged around the margin. Each seed about 1.5 mm diam. including the wing.

Seedlings

Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as coastal central New South Wales. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1000 m. Grows in well developed lowland and upland rain forest and is +/- saprophytic deriving nourishment from rotting wood in old stumps, logs, etc. Also occurs in New Guinea.

Natural History & Notes

Although plants are not completely devoid of chlorophyll, they are generally accepted as being saprophytic and field evidence supports this contention as plants are usually found near large rotting stumps.

Synonyms

Galeola foliata (F.Muell.) F.Muell., *Fragm. Phyto. Aust.* 8: 31(1873). **Ledgeria foliata** F.Muell., *Fragm.* 2: 167(1861), Type: Queensland, Pine River, E. Fitzalan; holo: MEL.

RFK Code

2650



Flower. © CSIRO



Habit and flowers. CC-BY J.L.

Dowe



Fruit. © CSIRO



Leaf. CC-BY J.L. Dowe



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



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