

Tetracera nordtiana F.Muell.

Family:

Dilleniaceae

Mueller, F.J.H. von (1865) *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 5: 1. Type: Queensland, Rockingham Bay, Meunga Creek, 4 Jan. 1864?, J. Dallachy; lecto: MEL; iso: BM.

Common name:

Small-leaved Fire Vine; Fire Vine; Vine, Small-leaved Fire

Stem

Usually grows as a tree-top vine but also flowers and fruits as a shrub. Vine stem diameters to 5 cm recorded. Vascular rays visible to the naked eye in stem transverse sections, equally obvious in the bark.

Leaves

Leaf blades scabrous (sandpapery) often on both the upper and lower surfaces due to the presence of short hairs which tend to disappear as each leaf ages. Leaf blades about 6-20 x 4-7.5 cm, petioles about 1-3.5 cm long, grooved on the upper surface. Venation distinctive, with the main lateral veins extending from the midrib all the way to the margin of the leaf blade. Small stellate hairs usually visible with a lens on both the upper and lower surfaces of the younger leaves. Young leaf bearing twigs usually scabrous and will sometimes inflict 'rope burns' on exposed skin on the legs and arms of the poor unfortunates lost in the primaeval forest.

Flowers

Inflorescences up to 20 cm or longer. Flowers sweetly perfumed, about 6-10 mm diam. Sepals +/- orbicular, about 3-5 mm diam. Petals caducous, about 8-9 mm long. Stamens numerous, about 5 mm long. Anthers obtriangular in outline, about 1 x 1 mm with the anther locules in each corner of the anther. Staminal filaments about 4 mm long. Stamens about 4-5 mm long, anther locules quite separate at the apex. Carpels 2-4 (usually 3) hairy, each carpel about 1.5-2 mm long. Styles about 3-3.5 mm long. Ovules about 10 per carpel.

Fruit

Fruiting carpels clothed in pale +/- prostrate hairs. Carpels ovoid, about 5-8 x 3-5 mm with a 1-2 mm beak. Seeds one. Aril much larger than the seed, aril margin fimbriate with numerous long slender lobes. Endosperm granular. Embryo very small, no more than 1 mm long, cotyledons not exceeding the width of the radicle.

Seedlings

Hypocotyl slightly winged. Cotyledons elliptic, about 8-10 x 5-6 mm. First pair of leaves with toothed margins. At the tenth leaf stage: lateral veins straight and parallel ending in a tooth; both the upper and lower surfaces of the leaf blade hairy. Seed germination time 113 to 147 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP and NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1100 m. Grows in well developed rain forest on a variety of sites. Also occurs in Malesia.

Synonyms

Tetracera nordtiana* F.Muell. var. *nordtiana, *Flora Malesiana ser. I* 4: 145(1951). ***Tetracera nordtiana* var. *moluccana* (Martelli) Hoogland**, *Flora Malesiana ser. I* 4: 145(1951). ***Tetracera nordtiana* var. *wuthiana* (F.Muell.) Hoogland**, *Flora Malesiana ser. I* 4: 145(1951). ***Tetracera cowleyana* var. *teeweeree* F.M.Bailey**, *The Queensland Flora* 1: 9(1899), Type: Barron River, Cowley. ***Tetracera cowleyana* F.M.Bailey var. *cowleyana***, *The Queensland Flora* 1: 9(1899). ***Tetracera cowleyana* F.M.Bailey**, *Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock. Botany Bulletin* 5: 7(1892), Type: Herbert River, H.G. Eaton; Cairns, E. Cowley. ***Tetracera wuthiana* F.Muell.**, *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 10: 49(1877), Type: Ad flumen Daintrees River cum Pandano semifisso, Fitzalan; ad oram Rockinghams Bay, Dallachy.

RFK Code

2010



Flowers. © G. Sankowsky



Flowers. © CSIRO



Inflorescences and flowers. © CSIRO



Dehiscing fruits showing red arils. © CSIRO



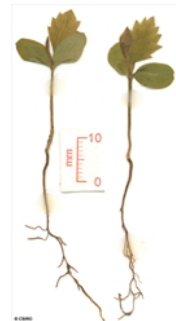
Dehiscent fruit, seeds and arils. © CSIRO



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Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Vine stem transverse section. ©
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