

Vandasina retusa (Benth.) Rauschert

Family:
Fabaceae

Rauschert, S. (1982) *Taxon* 31(3): 559.

Common name:
Ru; Kong-an

Stem

Usually grows as a vine but can at times have the habit of a shrub. Vine stem diameters to 4 cm recorded. Blaze odour faint, resembling that of green beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*). Bark exudate watery pink to reddish. Vessels quite large, readily visible to the naked eye.

Leaves

Leaflet blades about 4.5-10 x 4.5-9 cm, both upper and lower surfaces clothed in short, pale, prostrate hairs. Apex deeply emarginate or lobed and mucronate. Stipules triangular to semi-orbicular, about 2.5-6 x 9-11 mm long, held +/- at right angles to the twigs. Stalk of the middle leaflet pinnate and longer than those on the lateral leaflets. Leaflet stalks about 4-14 mm long. Stipels present at the base of all leaflet stalks. Twigs longitudinally ribbed.

Flowers

Calyx about 4 mm long, clothed in erect hairs on both the inner and outer surfaces. Corolla about 8 mm long. Stamens 10, the filaments of nine stamens fused to form a tube open on one side. One stamen free. Ovary hairy. Style about 3.5 mm long.

Fruit

Pod about 60-80 mm long, brown, clothed in fine white hairs. Seeds black, about 7 mm long, funicle mushroom-shaped, hard and greenish.

Seedlings

Cotyledons falcate, about 15 x 3 mm. First pair of true leaves orbicular, sub-opposite. Third leaf usually trifoliolate. At the tenth leaf stage: leaflet blades bilobed at the apex. Stipels visible at the base of the leaflets, one pair where the lateral leaflets are attached and another pair at the point of attachment of the middle leaflet. Stipules large and triangular, about 7 x 3 mm. Seed germination time 12 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP and NEQ. Altitudinal range quite small, from near sea level to 50 m. Grows in open forest and other types of vegetation, including monsoon forest and beach forest close to the sea. Usually grows on sand. Also occurs in Papua New Guinea.

Natural History & Notes

Roots were roasted and eaten by Aborigines. A species of no grazing significance. Hacker (1990).

Synonyms

***Caulinia retusa* (Benth.) F.Muell.**, *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 7: 128(1869). ***Kennedia retusa* (Benth.) F.Muell.**, *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 5: 106(1865). ***Vandasina retusa* (Sol. ex Benth.) Domin**, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(3): 774(1926). ***Hardenbergia retusa* Benth.**, *Flora Australiensis* 2: 247(1864), Type: Queensland, Endeavour river, Banks and Solander, A. Cunningham; Dunk Island, McGillivray; Albany Island, F. Mueller; Cape York, W. Hill.

RFK Code

3459



Flowers. © CSIRO



Flowers and buds [not vouchered].
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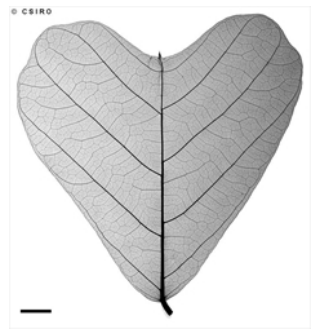
Habit, leaves and flowers. © CSIRO



Fruit [not vouchered]. © G. Sankowsky



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



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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