



Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc.

Cairns Branch
PO Box 199
Earlville Qld 4870

Newsletter No. 108
Mar 2011

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Vice Chairperson	Mary Gandini	40 542 190
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Treasurer	Robert Jago	40 552 266

Membership Subscriptions- Qld Region- (Please Note: New fee structure) Renewal \$35.00, New Members \$40, each additional member of household \$2.00 **Student** - Renewal \$23 New Members \$28.00, **Cairns Branch Fees** -\$10.00 Full Year

To access our Library for the loan of publications, please contact David Warmington
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Dates to remember

Cairns Branch Meetings and Excursions – third Saturday of each month.

NEXT MEETING AND EXCURSION

19 Mar 2011 AGM at 16 Barellan Close, Lake Placid.

Tablelands Branch Excursion– Sunday following the meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Any queries please contact Chris Jaminon 4095 2882 or hjaminon@bigpond.com

Townsville Branch

General Meeting Please contact John Elliot: jw-elliott@aapt.net.au for more information

Crystal Ball

16th April - An overview of the recently updated "Rainforest Key" by Stuart Worboys

March

We will meet at 12:00 at Ing's Place: 16 Barellan Close, Lake Placid (See map next page). Everyone is asked to bring a plate (of food) for lunch. The AGM will commence at 13:00 followed by the first Ordinary Meeting of the year.



Informal Ordinary Meeting

Vegetation

The highlight of the walk from Ellen Close to the Lookout was undoubtedly the large specimen of *Ficus albipila*. Other large trees observed included specimens of *Ficus variegata* and *Pisonia umbellifera*. Other tree species common in the canopy included; *Euroschinus falcatus*, *Semecarpus australiensis*, *Alstonia scholaris*, *Wrightia laevis*, *Canarium vitiense*, *Terminalia sericocarpa*, *Elaeocarpus grandis*, *Aleurites rockinghamensis*, *Mallotus polyadenos*, *Castanospermum australe*, *Casearia grewiaefolia* var. *gelonioides*, *Beilschmiedia obtusifolia*, *Cryptocarya grandis*, *Cryptocarya hypospodia*, *Cryptocarya murrayi*, *Cryptocarya rhodosperma*, *Cryptocarya vulgaris*, *Endiandra longipedicellata*, *Dysoxylum alliaceum*, *Dysoxylum mollissimum*, *Dysoxylum pettigrewianum*, *Paraserianthes toona* (towards the Lookout), *Ficus virens*, *Myristica globosa*, *Chionanthus ramiflora*, *Neonaucle glabra*, *Flindersia iffliana*, *Melicope elleryana*, *Castanospora alphandii*, *Ganophyllum falcatum*, *Synima cordierorum*, *Toechima erythrocarpum*, *Palaquium galactoxylum*, *Planchonella myrsinodendron*, *Gomphandra australiana* and *Argyrodendron peralatum*. Try as we may we could not find a single specimen of Kauri.

This area has suffered surprisingly little damage from Cyclone Yasi. The damage caused by Cyclone Yasi proved to be something of a blessing as it enabled fallen trees to be readily identified and branches with attached leaves of almost every canopy tree were also readily

available at ground level. A notable feature was the total lack of plants from the Proteaceae family. Another thing of note was the large specimens of *Phaleria octandra*. This species which is usually encountered as a shrub a metre or two high reaches the height of a small tree in this area. No rare species were observed. The number of species observed is quite high considering the area covered. All plant species observed are recorded in the attached list.

Meet the Locals

Bob Jago

The highlight of the Ivan Evans Walk from Ellen Close to the lookout is undoubtedly the large specimen of *Ficus albipila* off to the left of the track. This tree which is known as Gimuy holds a special place in the culture and history of Cairns. The Traditional Owners of the Cairns area the Gimuy Yidinji identify themselves as the Gimuy people. Shields manufactured from wood cut from the large buttress roots of the Gimuy conferred upon a warrior fortunate enough to possess a Gimuy shield an advantage over those less fortunate. Its light weight, structural strength and resistance to splitting were all very desirable attributes. A shield made from Gimuy also instilled in its owner a high level of confidence as the shield could be relied upon to deflect blow after blow and not split. The wood and shields manufactured from Gimuy were highly prized and widely traded. Shields were also manufactured from the buttress roots of *Ficus variegata* but were regarded as inferior to those of Gimuy. The bark of both species was also used in the manufacture of blankets. Swords and shields were commonly used by the rainforest people between the Bloomfield River and Cardwell.

Ficus albipila grows to 45 metres tall with a stem often in excess of one metre diameter above the large buttress roots that maybe 5-6 metres tall on very large specimens.



Looking up

A synonym *Ficus colossea* aptly describes the tree as it really is something of a colossus.



Close up of the trunk

Gimuy was prior to European settlement in 1876 common in rainforest on alluvial fans and metamorphic hill slopes throughout the Cairns Region. It can still be found in many part of the Cairns Region, usually in somewhat inaccessible places. Large specimens exist on Mt. Whitfield just off the Blue Arrow Walk if you know where to look and in the Barron Gorge National Park. The specimen observed just off the Ivan Evans Walk is however the most easily assessable being situated only a short distance up the ridge and only a short distance from the track.

Names used by various local language groups and dialects include: Gimuy; Gunagarray; Gawuu; Wulgu; Milbirr; Bannaboolka; Kokoya & possibly Keba.

Common English names include: Slippery Blue Fig; Figwood; Abbey Tree; Cathedral Tree and Poison Fig in reference to the milky sap which can cause skin irritations and rashes.

References

Bailey, F.M.; (1902); The Queensland Flora; (5) 1467.

Roth, W.E; (1907-1910); The Queensland Aborigines; 1-3.



David Warmington, the Curator of the Cairns Botanical Gardens, examines the large buttress roots of a fine specimen of *Ficus albipila* along the Ivan Evans Walk.

Side Trip

Heading home from an aborted survey near Mt Carbine last week, we stopped next to Lake Mitchell (Quaid's Lake) for a bit of a poke around. The ground was quite boggy from the recent and current rain. Despite the very waterlogged conditions, several species were blooming, some of which I had never seen before



***Habenaria propinquier* – Bog Orchid**



***Stylidium confertum* – A Trigger Plant**



***Flemingia involucrata* – A Pea**



***Melaleuca viridiflora* - Broad-leafed tea tree**



***Melaleuca viridiflora* - Broad-leafed tea tree**



***Allocasuarina luehmannii* - Buloke**



The nodes on *Sarga plumosum*, a grass

The Survey Revisited

Several days later the survey went ahead and some interesting plants were found in flower.



Alysicarpus aurantiacus



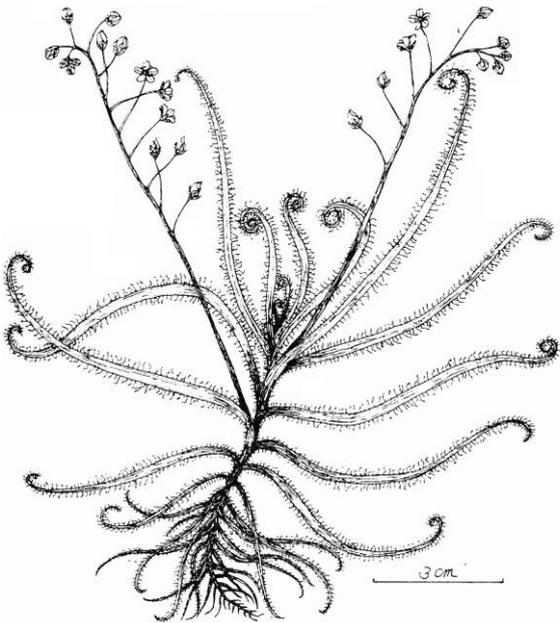
Thecanthes cornucopiae

To the casual observer, the two plants illustrated below look superficially similar. Both are herbaceous plants living in wet environments having very narrow, linear leaves covered in glandular hairs (for insect capture and digestion). Not surprisingly, we found them growing side by side at several locations at the site.

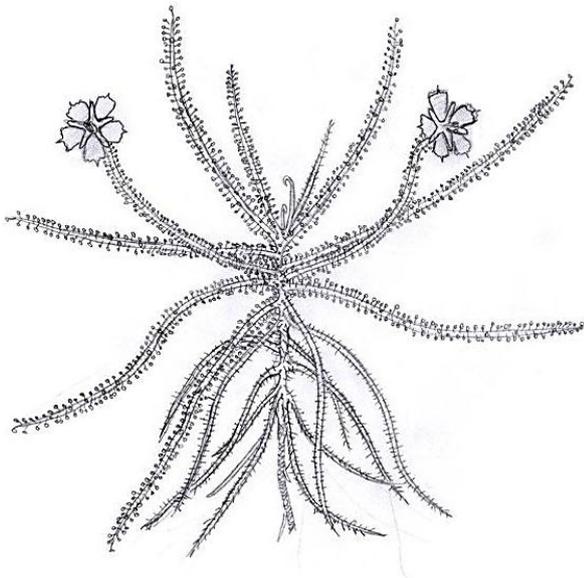
However they occur in different families, and in fact, in different orders and it is the floral morphology that gives this fact away.

Drosera is placed in the Droseraceae in the order Caryophyllales and *Byblis* is placed in Byblidaceae in the Lamiales.

The flowers of *Drosera* are actinomorphic (radially symmetrical – can be divided into equal halves along more than one plane) while those of *Byblis* are zygomorphic (asymmetrical – can only be divided into equal halves along one plane).



Drosera indica



Byblis liniflora



Drosera indica



Byblis liniflora

One of the reasons I volunteered for this survey was to see *Typhonium angustilobum*. Unfortunately, due to the weather delays I missed it flowering but the plants were out and fruit was forming.

The genus is placed in the Araceae (Newsletter No. 108, Mar 2011). It occurs in tropical Qld and NT and in PNG.

Some references indicate that the starchy tuber was eaten by the local inhabitants after treatment to remove toxins.

When flowering, the inflorescence emits a foetid smell to attract its preferred pollinators.



***Typhonium angustilobum* – Fruit (imm)**



Typhonium angustilobum

FAMILY Code TAXON

COMMON NAME

FERNS & ALLIES**Adiantaceae***Adiantum diaphanum*

Filmy Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum hispidulum var. *hispidulum*

Rough Maidenhair Fern

* *Pityrogramma calomelanos* var. *calomelanos*

Silver Fern

Aspleniaceae*Asplenium nidus*

Birds Nest Fern

Blechnaceae*Doodia media*

Rasp Fern

Cyatheaceae*Cyathea cooperi*

Scaly Tree Fern

Dennstaedtiaceae*Microlepia speluncae*

Cave Fern

Dryopteridaceae*Coveniella poecilophlebia***Nephrolepidaceae***Nephrolepis obliterated***Polypodiaceae***Drynaria rigidula*

Basket Fern

*Drynaria sparsisora**Microsorium punctatum**Platycterium hillii*

Northern Elkhorn Fern

*Pyrrosia rupestris***Pteridaceae***Pteris ensiformis** *Pteris ensiformis* forma "Victoriae"*Pteris pacifica***Thelypteridaceae***Amphineuron terminans**Christella parasitica***GYMNOSPERMS****Zamiaceae***Lepidozamia hopei*

Zamia Palm or Hope's Cycad

FAMILY Code TAXON COMMON NAME

FLOWERING PLANTS-DICOTYLEDONS

Acanthaceae

Pseuderanthemum variabile Pastel Flower

Anacardiaceae

Poplar

Euroschinus falcatus var. *falcatus* Blush Cudgerie or Pink

* *Mangifera indica* Mango

Rhus taitensis Sumac

Semecarpus australiensis Tar Tree

Annonaceae

Melodorum leichhardtii Acid Drop Vine

Polyalthia australis Canary Beech

Polyalthia nitidissima Canary Beech

Apocynaceae

Alstonia scholaris Milky Pine

Ichnocarpus frutescens

Parsonsia longipetiolata Green-leaved Silkpod

Tylophora benthamii

Wrightia laevis subsp. *millgar* Millgar

Araliaceae

Polyscias australiana Ivory Basswood

Polyscias elegans Celerywood

Aristolochiaceae

Pararistolochia deltantha

Asteraceae

* *Ageratum conyzoides* Blue Top; Billygoat Weed

Cyanthillium cinereum Purple Fleabane

*C2 *Elephantopus mollis* Tobacco Weed

* *Praxelis clematidea* Praxelis

*C3 *Sphagneticola trilobata* Singapore Daisy

* *Synedrella nodiflora* Cinderella weed

Bignoniaceae

Pandorea pandorana Wonga Vine

Burseraceae

Canarium vitiense Canarium

FAMILY Code	TAXON	COMMON NAME
	Cardiopteridaceae	
	<i>Cardiopteris moluccana</i>	
	Celastraceae	
	<i>Elaeodendron melanocarpum</i>	Black Olive Plum
	<i>Euonymus australiana</i>	
	<i>Hippocratea barbata</i>	
	<i>Salacia disepala</i>	
	<i>Siphonodon membranaceus</i>	Ivorywood
	Clusiaceae	
	<i>Calophyllum sil</i>	Blush Touriga
	Combretaceae	
	<i>Terminalia sericocarpa</i>	Damson
	Connaraceae	
	<i>Connarus conchocarpus</i>	Shell Vine
	NT <i>Rourea brachyandra</i>	Water Vine
	Convolvulaceae	
	<i>Erycibe coccinea</i>	
	<i>Lepistemon urceolatus</i>	
	Cucurbitaceae	
	<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i>	Native Bryony
	Dilleniaceae	
	<i>Tetracera nordtiana</i> var. <i>nordtiana</i>	Fire Vine
	Elaeocarpaceae	
	<i>Elaeocarpus grandis</i>	Silver Quandong
	Euphorbiaceae	
	<i>Aleurites rockinghamensis</i>	Candlenut
	<i>Homalanthus novoguineensis</i>	Native Bleeding Heart
	<i>Macaranga involucrata</i> var. <i>mallotoides</i>	Brown Macaranga
	<i>Macaranga tanarius</i>	Blush Macaranga
	<i>Mallotus philippensis</i>	Red Kamala
	<i>Mallotus polyadenos</i>	Kamala
	<i>Tragia finalis</i>	Stinging Vine
	Fabaceae	
	<i>Austrosteenisia blackii</i> var. <i>blackii</i>	Blood Vine
	<i>Castanospermum australe</i>	Black Bean
	* <i>Centrosema molle</i>	Centro

	FAMILY Code TAXON	COMMON NAME
	<i>Derris</i> sp. (Daintree D. E. Boyland + 469)	
Pea	<i>Hanslia ormocarpoides</i>	Cascading
	Flacourtiaceae	
	<i>Casearia dallachii</i>	
Dallachy's Silver Birch	<i>Casearia grewiaefolia</i> var. <i>gelonioides</i>	
	<i>Scolopia braunii</i>	Flintwood
	Lamiaceae	
	<i>Faradaya splendida</i>	October Glory
	<i>Glossocarya hemiderma</i>	
	Lauraceae	
Bollygum	<i>Beilschmiedia obtusifolia</i>	Blush Walnut; Hard
	<i>Cryptocarya clarksoniana</i>	Clarkson's Laurel
	<i>Cryptocarya grandis</i>	Cinnamon Walnut
	<i>Cryptocarya hypospodia</i>	Northern Laurel
	<i>Cryptocarya murrayi</i>	Murray's Laurel
	<i>Cryptocarya rhodosperma</i>	
	<i>Cryptocarya triplinervis</i> var. <i>riparia</i>	Brown Laurel
	<i>Cryptocarya vulgaris</i>	Northern Laurel
	<i>Endiandra longipedicellata</i>	Buff Walnut
	<i>Litsea bindoniana</i>	Bollywood
	<i>Neolitsea brassii</i>	Brass's Bollywood
	Meliaceae	
	<i>Aglaia sapindina</i>	Boodyarra
	<i>Dysoxylum alliaceum</i>	Buff Mahogany
	<i>Dysoxylum arborescens</i>	Mossman Mahogany
	<i>Dysoxylum mollissimum</i> subsp. <i>molle</i>	Red Bean
	<i>Dysoxylum parasiticum</i>	Yellow Mahogany
	<i>Dysoxylum pettigrewianum</i>	Spur Mahogany
	Menispermaceae	
	<i>Carronia protensa</i>	
	<i>Pachygone ovata</i>	
	<i>Pycnarrhena novoguineensis</i>	
	Mimosaceae	
	<i>Adenantha pavonina</i>	False Red Sandalwood
	<i>Albizia procera</i>	Forest Siris

FAMILY Code	TAXON	COMMON NAME
	<i>Entada phaseoloides</i>	Match Box Bean
*	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> var. <i>hispida</i>	Common Sensitive Plant
	<i>Paraserianthes toona</i>	Acacia Cedar
Monimiaceae		
	<i>Wilkiea longipes</i>	
Moraceae		
	<i>Ficus albipila</i>	Slippery Blue Fig
	<i>Ficus benjamina</i>	Weeping Fig
	<i>Ficus congesta</i> var. <i>congesta</i>	Red Leaf Fig
	<i>Ficus copiosa</i>	Fig-of-plenty
	<i>Ficus fraseri</i>	Figwood
	<i>Ficus hispida</i>	Hairy Fig
	<i>Ficus pantoniana</i> var. <i>pantoniana</i>	Climbing Fig
	<i>Ficus septica</i> var. <i>cauliflora</i>	Septic Fig
	<i>Ficus variegata</i> var. <i>variegata</i>	Variegated Cluster Fig
	<i>Ficus virens</i> var. <i>virens</i>	White Fig
	<i>Maclura cochinchinensis</i>	Cock Spur Vine
	<i>Streblus brunonianus</i>	White Handlewood
Myristicaceae		
	<i>Myristica globosa</i> subsp. <i>muelleri</i>	Nutmeg
Myrsinaceae		
	<i>Myrsine variabilis</i>	
Myrtaceae		
	<i>Acmenosperma claviflorum</i>	Trumpet Satinash
	<i>Corymbia torelliana</i>	Cadaghi
	<i>Gossia bidwillii</i>	Lignum
	<i>Gossia myrsinocarpa</i>	Malanda Ironwood
	<i>Syzygium cormiflorum</i>	Bumpy Satinash
	<i>Syzygium luehmannii</i>	Cherry Satinash
Nyctaginaceae		
	<i>Pisonia umbellifera</i>	Cabbagewood
Oleaceae		
	<i>Chionanthus ramiflora</i>	Native Olive
	<i>Jasminum didymum</i> subsp. <i>didymum</i>	Native Jasmin
Passifloraceae		
*	<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	Corky Passion Flower

FAMILY Code	TAXON	COMMON NAME
Phyllanthaceae		
	<i>Breynia cernua</i>	Fart Tree
	<i>Glochidion philippicum</i>	Buttonwood
	<i>Phyllanthus cuscutiflorus</i>	Pink Phyllanthus
	<i>Phyllanthus nova-hollandiae</i>	
Piperaceae		
	<i>Piper caninum</i>	Native Pepper
	<i>Piper hederaceum</i>	Native Pepper
Pittosporaceae		
	<i>Pittosporum ferrugineum</i> subsp. <i>linifolium</i>	Rusty Pittosporum
Rhamnaceae		
	<i>Alphitonia incana</i>	Hairy Sarsaparilla
	<i>Alphitonia petriei</i>	Pink Ash
	<i>Gouania australiana</i>	
	<i>Rhamnella vitiensis</i>	
	<i>Ventilago ecorollata</i>	
Rhizophoraceae		
	<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	Corky Bark
Rubiaceae		
	<i>Aidia racemosa</i>	Archer Cherry
	<i>Neonauclea glabra</i>	Hard Leichhardt
*	<i>Spermacoce latifolia</i>	Big Square Weed
	<i>Tarenna dallachiana</i> subsp. <i>dallachiana</i>	Tree Ixora
Rutaceae		
	<i>Acronychia laevis</i>	Hard Aspen
	<i>Flindersia iffaiiana</i>	Cairns Hickory Ash
	<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	Evodia
	<i>Melicope rubra</i>	Evodiella
	<i>Melicope xanthoxyloides</i>	Yellow Evodia
*	<i>Murraya paniculata</i> var. "Exotica"	Mock Orange
	<i>Pitaviaster haplophyllus</i>	Yellow Aspen
Sapindaceae		
	<i>Aryterya pauciflora</i>	Pink Tamarind
	<i>Castanospora alphanthii</i>	Brown Tamarind

FAMILY Code	TAXON	COMMON NAME
	<i>Cupaniopsis flagelliformis</i>	Brown Tuckeroo
	<i>Cupaniopsis foveolata</i>	White Tamarind
	<i>Ganophyllum falcatum</i>	Daintree Hickory
	<i>Guioa acutifolia</i>	Glossy Tamarind
	<i>Rhysotoechia robertsonii</i>	Robert's Tuckeroo
	<i>Synima cordierorum</i>	Synima
	<i>Toechima erythrocarpum</i>	Pink Tamarind
Sapotaceae		
	<i>Palaquium galactoxylum</i>	Cairns Pencil Cedar
	<i>Planchonella myrsinodendron</i>	Yellow Boxwood
Scrophulariaceae		
	<i>Lindernia crustacea</i>	
Simaroubaceae		
	<i>Brucea javanica</i>	Brucea
Sparrmanniaceae		
	<i>Trichospermum pleiostigma</i>	Whitfield Ash
Stemonuraceae		
	<i>Gomphandra australiana</i>	Buff Beech
Sterculiaceae		
	<i>Argyrodendron peralatum</i>	Red Tulip Oak
Thymelaeaceae		
	<i>Phaleria octandra</i>	Dwarf Daphne
Ulmaceae		
	<i>Trema orientalis</i>	Poison Peach Tree
Urticaceae		
	<i>Dendrocnide moroides</i>	Gympy Gympy Stinger
	<i>Pipturus argenteus</i>	Native Mulberry
Verbenaceae		
	*C3 <i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana
Vitaceae		
	<i>Cissus oblonga</i>	Smooth Water Vine
	<i>Leea indica</i>	Bandicoot Berry

FLOWERING PLANTS-MONOCOTYLEDONS

Araceae		
	<i>Epipremnum pinnatum</i>	Native Monstera

FAMILY Code	TAXON	COMMON NAME
	<i>Pothos longipes</i>	Pothos
Arecaceae		
	<i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>	Alexandra Palm
	<i>Calamus australis</i>	Hairy Mary Lawyer Cane
	<i>Calamus caryotoides</i>	Fishtail Lawyer Cane
	<i>Licuala ramsayi</i>	Queensland Fan Palm
	<i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>	Solitaire Palm
Commelinaceae		
	* <i>Murdannia vaginata</i>	
Flagellariaceae		
	<i>Flagellaria indica</i>	Supplejack
Heliconiaceae		
	* <i>Heliconia bihai</i>	
Hemerocallidaceae		
	<i>Dianella bambusifolia</i>	Flax Lily
	<i>Geitonoplesium cymosum</i>	Scrambling Lily
Laxmanniaceae		
	<i>Cordyline cannifolia</i>	Native Cordyline
	<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>	Wombat Berry
Orchidaceae		
	<i>Corymborkis veratifolia</i>	White Cinnamon Orchid
	<i>Dockrillia calamiformis</i>	Northern Pencil Orchid
Pandanaceae		
	<i>Pandanus monticola</i>	Scrub Breadfruit
Poaceae		
	* <i>Axonopus compressus</i>	Broad Leaf Carpet Grass
	<i>Cyrtococcum oxyphyllum</i>	
	<i>Leptaspis banksii</i>	
	* <i>Megathyrsus maximus</i> var. <i>maximus</i>	Guinea Grass
	<i>Oplismenus compositus</i>	
	<i>Oplismenus mollis</i>	
	* <i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	Sour Grass
	* <i>Paspalum paniculatum</i>	Russell River Grass
Smilacaceae		
	<i>Smilax calophylla</i>	Sarsaparilla Vine

FAMILY Code	TAXON	COMMON NAME
Zingiberaceae	<i>Alpinia caerulea</i>	Native Ginger
	<i>Amomum dallachyi</i>	Green Ginger
	<i>Hornstedtia scottiana</i>	Native Cardamon

Explanation of Codes Used

NT Near Threatened in the Schedules of the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006*

* Introduced naturalised exotic non-native species.

C3 Class 3 Pest Plant in the Schedules of the *Land Protection (Pest & Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003*.