

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



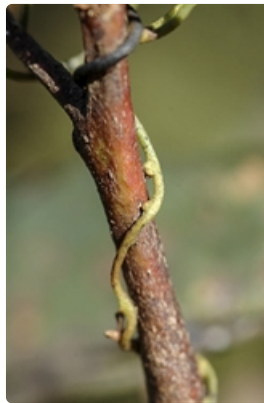
Flower and buds. Photographer Steve Burrows, Bournda National Park



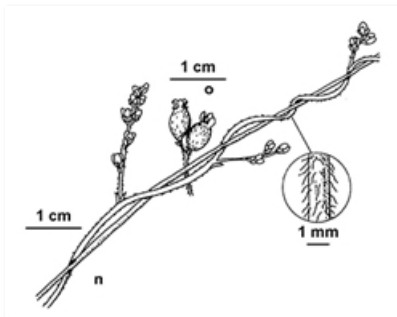
Flowering stems. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Gibraltar Falls, ACT



Fruiting stems. Photographer Don Wood, NW of Moruya



Stem showing attachments to the host. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, near Batemans Bay



Line drawings. n. plant showing stem detail; o. fruits. EMMayfield, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Downy dodder-laurel, Devil's twine

Family

Lauraceae

Where found

Variety of vegetation communities. Widespread.

Notes

Parasitic twiner with stems 0.3–3 mm thick. Fruit fleshy. Stems cylindrical, smooth to finely wrinkled, hairy with white or red to brownish hairs, becoming hairless, yellow-green or grey-green to reddish and sometimes warty when older. Leaves scale-like, to 0.4 cm long, to 2 mm wide, bases stem clasping. Flowers 1–3 mm long, 1–3 mm in diameter, white to cream, hairy with grey, black, yellow or red hairs, with 3 **petals**. Flowers stalkless, or almost so. Flowers in 2–20-flowered congested or loose **spikes** or **heads**, the clusters single or often paired. Flowering: summer. Fruit white or green-grey to green-red, often banded dull green and dull red brown, white-hairy, sometimes sparsely so, globular to oval, 6–10 mm long, 5.5–10 mm in diameter, enveloped in the enlarged **floral tube**.

PlatNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Cassytha~pubescens>
(accessed 7 January, 2021)

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