

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Male flowers. Australian Plant Image Index, Australian Tropical Rainforest key, photographer B Jago



Flowering stems and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, Australian Tropical Rainforest key



Stem with seed cases. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer D Grieg, Iluka, east of Maclean

## Common name

Native yam

## Family

Dioscoreaceae

## Where found

**Forest** and moist gullies. Coast and ranges north from Wollongong.

## Notes

Herb with twining stems to 4 m long, arising annually from a **tuber** often deep in the soil. Stems hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, usually 5–13 cm long, 20–80 mm wide, hairless, upper surface glossy, lower surface somewhat dull, sometimes purplish, tips with a long drawn out point, bases **cordate** or rarely with pointed **spreading** lobes. Male and female flowers on different plants, small, with 6 greenish '**petals**' in 2 **whorls**, each 1.5–2.5 mm long. Male flowers rounded, in single or paired **spikes** 3–6 cm long. Female flowers elongated, in single or paired elongated clusters usually 10–20 cm long. Flowering: spring. Seed cases usually fawn to brownish, sometimes purple, papery, with 3 **wings**. Seeds flat, with a **wing** all round the seed.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Dioscorea~transversa> (accessed 12 January, 2021)

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