

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Male flower head. Australian Plant Image Index, Australian Tropical Rainforest key, photographer unknown



Ripe fruit and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, Australian Tropical Rainforest key, photographer unknown

## Common name

Giant pepper vine

## Family

Piperaceae

## Where found

**Rainforest** and near streams. Coast and ranges north of Bermagui.

## Notes

Large climber, climbing on tree trunks by small **adventitious roots**, branches up to 30 cm diameter. Fruit fleshy. Stems hairless, jointed and enlarged at the **nodes**, with scars encircling the stems from the expanded bases of fallen leaf **stipules**. Older stems woody. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 3–15 cm long, 12–120 mm wide, bases often with one side longer than the other, and rounded or pointed on exposed 'sun leaves', or **cordate** on 'shade leaves'; surfaces hairless, upper surface dark green and glossy, lower surface paler and dull, tips pointed. Male and female flowers on different plants or on the same plant. Flowers occasionally bisexual. Flowers minute, with 0 **petals**, each **subtended** by a **bract**. Flowers in many-flowered **spikes**, male spikes cylindrical, 10–60 mm long, female spikes oval, 5–25 mm long. Fruit red, 4–8 mm long, oval to round, in clusters about 50–60 mm long.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=in&name=Piper~hederaceum+var.~hederaceum> (accessed 1 February, 2021)

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