

Amylotheca dictyophleba (F.Muell.) Tiegh.

Family:

Loranthaceae

Tieghem, P.E.L. van (1894) *Bull. Soc. Bot. France* 41: 262.

Stem

Aerial stem-parasitic shrub. Epicortical runners present.

Leaves

Leaf blades about 7-15 x 1-5 cm, petioles about 0.1-0.5 cm long. Lateral veins visible on the upper surface but scarcely visible on the lower surface. Lateral veins often forming fairly distinct loops inside the blade margin.

Flowers

Flowers usually borne in triads, middle flower sessile, lateral flowers pedicellate. Triads in racemes or the whole inflorescence reduced to a simple raceme. Calyx difficult to discern, about 0.3-0.6 mm long. Corolla about 28-38 mm long, inflated about the middle, lobes about 8-11 mm long, reflexed at anthesis. Anthers about 3-5 mm long, staminal filaments about 2-3 mm long, curved inwards towards the style. Anthers appear basifixed but are rarely dorsifixed. Style glabrous, about 32-45 mm long.

Fruit

Fruits variable in colour, black, red or yellow at or close to maturity. Fruits ellipsoid to obovoid, about 10-12 x 7-11 mm. Style remnant about 1-2 mm long, persistent at the apex. Seeds obpyriform, about 7-10 x 4-6 mm, surface longitudinally ribbed. A sticky tail about 20-50 mm long attached at one end. Testa sticky and mucilaginous. Embryo about 4.5-7 mm long. Cotyledons about 2-4 mm long, discrete, not fused together. Tip of the radicle armed with backward-pointing hairs or spines. Endosperm pale green or yellowish green.

Seedlings

Cotyledons about 2.5-7 x 0.7-1.1 cm, shortly petiolate, apex apiculate. Hypocotyl and haustorium clothed with green 'hairs' or processes. First pair of leaves opposite, second pair of leaves much larger. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade about 5 x 1 cm, apex acute to obtuse, base +/- attenuate, petiole about 3 mm long. Runners present, attaching by means of haustoria. Seed germination time 16 to 62 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as coastal central New South Wales. Altitudinal range in northern Australia from near sea level to 1300 m. Usually parasitic on a variety of rain forest plants. Also occurs in New Guinea.

Natural History & Notes

Food plant for the larval stage of the Trident Pencilled-blue Butterflies. Braby, M. (2000).

Synonyms

***Elytranthe dictyophleba* (F. Muell.) Engl.**, *Nat. Pflanzenfam. Nachtr.* 1-3: 126(1897). ***Aciella dictyophleba* (F. Muell.) Tiegh.**, *Bull. Soc. Bot. France* 42: 87(1895). ***Loranthus dictyophlebus* F. Muell.**, *Essay Burdekin Expedition* : 14(1860), Type: NSW, Hastings River, Beckler; Lecto: MEL. Fide B.A. Barlow(1966), *Austral. J. Bot.* 14: 439. Iso: NSW. ***Loranthus beauverdiana* F.M. Bailey**, *Queensland Agric. J.* 21: 294(1908), Type: Queensland, Mt Alexandra, 1902, H. Newport 8; Holo:BRI; Iso: NSW. ***Loranthus tenuifolius* F.M. Bailey**, *Queensland Dept. Agric. Stock Bot. Bull.* 16: 1(1903), Type: Queensland, Mt Alexandra, Nov. 1902, collector unknown; Holo: ?.

RFK Code

6015



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Fruit. © CSIRO



Fruit. © CSIRO



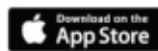
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