

Curcuma australasica Hook.f.

Family:
Zingiberaceae

Hooker, J.D. (1867) *Botanical Magazine* 93: t. 5620. Type: Mr John Veitch, .. who was the discoverer and means of introducing the present species from its north-east corner (Cape York) into England. The plant here figured flowered in Messrs. Veitch's establishment.

Common name:
Cape York lily; Native turmeric; Curcuma

Stem

Plant 50 cm tall. Rhizome round to oblong, yellow within.

Leaves

Leaves tufted. Leaf blades ovate-lanceolate, glabrous, 16-45 x 9-19 cm, petioles 3-21.5 cm long. Stipules 7-9 cm long. Leaf sheaths prominent with winged margins.

Flowers

Inflorescence cylindrical, 15-32 cm tall and 6 cm diameter at the top. Flowers ca. 15 mm diam. subtended by pink, slightly hairy sterile bracts 35 x 25 mm and bracteoles 15-19 mm long. Fertile bracts green, fleshy. Calyx tube 9-11 mm long open on one side. Corolla tube 22-30 mm long. Three outer lobes, thin and translucent, three inner lobes yellow, larger than the outer petals. Anthers 4-6 mm long, spurred at each end. Anthers sessile or on petal-like filaments 9 x 5 mm. Pollen white. Lateral staminodes not folded behind stamen. Ovary 2-3 mm long. Style 40 mm long. Ovules numerous.

Fruit

Capsule within persistent inflorescence bracts, with top third pubescent.

Seedlings

Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in the NT, CYP and NEQ to just south of Cairns. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 550 m. Grows at the edges of rainforest, in Eucalypt forest, vine forest and in woodland.

Natural History & Notes

Rhizome cooked and eaten.

RFK Code

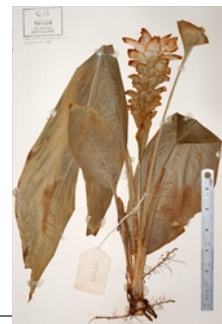
4104



Flowers. © CSIRO



Whole plant, leaves and flowers. © CSIRO



Herbarium specimen. © CSIRO

Copyright © CSIRO 2020, all rights reserved.



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest>