

Cyanotis axillaris (L.) D.Don ex Sweet

Family:

Commelinaceae

Sweet, R. (1826) *Sweet's Hortus Britannicus Edn. 1* 1: 430.

Common name:

Blue Ears

Stem

Fleshy to succulent annual herb with erect or creeping branched stems, 30-40 cm long, rooting at the nodes.

Leaves

Leaf blades 50-120 x 5-10 mm, free petiole nil, stem clasping section short, no more than 2 mm. Leaf blades mainly glabrous except for a small hairy section near the base.

Flowers

Flowers enclosed in a large floral leaf. Cincinni reduced, in axillary fascicles of 3-6 flowers; peduncle absent; bracts about 10 mm. Sepals linear-spatulate, 6-9 mm, with long cilia, abaxially hirsute. Outer perianth segments connate at base, narrowly oblong to narrowly triangular, 5-10 mm long. Tube of inner perianth segments slender, cylindrical, 6-12 mm long, longer than the outer segments. Petals blue to pale mauve, 10-12 mm. Filaments blue lanate, thickened above a dense tuft of hairs .

Fruit

Capsule oblong, trigonous, 4-8 mm, hispid at apex, with 6 horned projections. Seeds gray-black to gray-brown, pitted.

Seedlings

Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ and CEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to about 500 m. Found in moist areas in monsoon forest, vine thicket, various types of woodland and in wooded grassland. Also occurs in India, Indonesia to China.

Synonyms

Commelina axillaris L., *Species Plantarum* 1: 42(1753).

RFK Code

4034



Flower. © G. Sankowsky



Flower and floral leaf. © G. Sankowsky



Herbarium specimen. © DERM

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