

Gymnostachys anceps R.Br.

Family:

Araceae

Brown, R. (1810) *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae* : 337. Type: R. Brown (BM, K).

Common name:

Traveller's Grass; Sword-sedge; Settler's Twine; Settler's Flax; Caterpillar Flower

Stem

Usually flowers and fruits as a shrub about 2 m tall.

Leaves

Leaf blades long and narrow, about 100-200 x 2-2.5 cm, margins finely toothed. Midrib also finely toothed on the underside of the leaf blade at least towards the apex. Venation longitudinal and parallel.

Flowers

Inflorescence up to 2 m long with several spikes arising from alternating bracts near the apex. Flowers emerge over a long period of time. Peduncle +/- flattened, margins scabrid. Perianth lobes fleshy. Staminal filaments fleshy, glabrous, short and broad, about as wide as the base of the anther.

Fruit

Fruits about 14-16 x 9-10 mm. Seeds teardrop-shaped, about 13 x 7 mm. Seeds green.

Seedlings

First pair of true leaves +/- linear, cataphyll-like, longitudinally veined, not differentiated into a leaf blade and petiole. Base sheathing the stem. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves linear, venation longitudinal and parallel, not differentiated into a leaf blade and petiole. Base sheathing the stem. Margins toothed +/- from the base to the apex. Teeth irregularly shaped. Seed germination time 79 to 152 days.

Distribution and Ecology

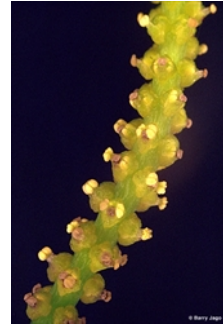
Endemic to Australia, occurs in NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as south-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1100 m. Grows as an understory plant in undisturbed rain forest.

Synonyms

Gymnostachys gigantea Domin, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 502(1928), Type: Nordost-Queensland: Regenwalder bei Harveys Creek und am Fusse des Bellenden-Ker (DOMIN, XII. 1909).

RFK Code

3414



Flowers. © Barry Jago



Inflorescence. © G. Sankowsky



Fruit and inflorescence. © CSIRO



Inflorescences [not vouchered]. ©

Lars Nauheimer



Habit [not vouchered]. © Lars Nauheimer



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, hypogeal germination. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO

