

Hypoestes floribunda R.Br.

Family:

Acanthaceae

Brown, R. (1810) *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae*: 474. Type: Queensland, Shoalwater Bay, Conical Pine Hill, 3 Sept. 1802, R. Brown 2949; lecto: BM; iso: BM, K, (MEL, BRI, G-DC. probable iso.).

Common name:

Native Holly; Musk-scented Plant

Stem

Usually flowers and fruits as a herb or shrub up to about 1 m tall.

Leaves

Twigs usually pubescent, longitudinally ridged. Leaf blades about 0.7-9 x 0.8-2.5 cm, pubescent on both the upper and lower surfaces, more densely so on the midrib and lateral veins on the undersurface. Leaf oil dots or glands elongated, streaky when viewed with a lens.

Flowers

Calyx segments usually shorter than the inner bracts. Corolla tube about 5-10 mm long, upper lip 7-14 mm long. One lip of the corolla held at right angles to the main axis of the flower. Lips of the corolla reddish purple but the corolla tube +/- white. Staminal filaments pubescent at least in the basal half. Base of the ovary surrounded by a large lobed gland.

Fruit

Calyx green, persisting at the base of the fruit but completely hidden by the bracts. Capsule narrow-oblong, clavate, about 9-12.5 mm long, approximating or extending beyond the involucre. Seeds confined to the upper half of the capsule. Seeds flat, patelliform, testa rugose. Cotyledons much wider than the radicle.

Seedlings

Cotyledons about 9-15 x 10-17 mm. Cotyledons +/- 3-veined and the outer veins loop around and rejoin the midrib near the apex. First pair of leaves opposite, leaf blades densely clothed in white prostrate hairs on the undersurface. At the tenth leaf stage: stem, petiole and leaf blade underside clothed in very short pale hairs. Stems swollen just above each pair of leaves. Seed germination time 33 to 80 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Australia, occurs in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards to north-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1000 m. Grows in a variety of forest types from brigalow scrub to frontal dune vegetation. When found in rain forests it is usually in the drier more open rain forests, monsoon forest and vine thickets.

Natural History & Notes

Food plant for the larval stages of the Blue Argus Butterfly. Sankowsky & Nielsen (2000). Leaf and stem material of this species was active against some tumors. Collins et al. (1990). Several varieties are recognised.

Synonyms

Hypoestes floribunda* R.Br. var. *floribunda, *Flora Australiensis* 4: 554(1868). ***Hypoestes floribunda* var. *velutina* R.M.Barker**, *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 9: 209(1986), Type: Hyland 9829, 30.v.1979, Bucks Gully Scrub, deciduous vine thicket (QRS). ***Hypoestes moschata* F.Muell. & Holtze**, *Select Extra-tropical Plants ed. 8*: 529(1891), Type: Arnheims Land. ***Hypoestes floribunda* var. *suaveolens* (C.A.Gardner) R.M.Barker**, *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 9: 223(1986). ***Hypoestes floribunda* subsp. *densiflora* Benth.**, *Flora Australiensis* 4: 554(1868), Type: N. Australia. Lagrange Bay, N.W. Coast, Marten. Queensland. Moreton Bay, A. Cunningham, F. Mueller; Rockhampton, Thozet; Edgecombe and Rockingham. ***Hypoestes suaveolens* C.A.Gardner**, *WA Forests Department Bulletin* 32: 91(1923), Type: Rocky elevations near Vansittart Bay. Fl. July-August; also near Mount Agnes, Prince Regent, and Moran Rivers. ***Hypoestes laxiflora* Nees**, *Prodromus* 11: 508(1847), Type: In insulae Javae (Junghuhn!), in Philipinis (Cuming! n. 1019, in h. Benth. Hook., berol., etc.). ***Hypoestes floribunda* var. *yorkensis* R.M.Barker**, *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 9: 212(1986), Type:



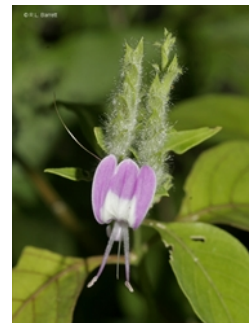
Flower [not vouchered]. CC-BY
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Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Flowers. © B. Gray



Flower. © R.L. Barrett

Clarkson 4567, 15.x.1982, 112 km W of Merapah on the blazed track to Peret, c. 30 km S of Aurukun, levee of Archer River (AD). **Hypoestes floribunda** var. **varia** R.M.Barker, *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 9: 216(1986), Type: McKean B602, 8.vi.1972, 3 miles NW Adelaide River Township (CANB); isotypes: (DNA, NT). **Hypoestes floribunda** subsp. **paniculata** Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 4: 554(1868), Type: N. Australia. South Goulburn Island, A. Cunningham; Cape Upstart, Bynoe; Port Essington, Armstrong. **Hypoestes floribunda** var. **paniculata** (Benth.) Ewart & O.B.Davies, *Flora of the Northern Territory* : 252(1917). **Hypoestes floribunda** var. **distans** (Benth.) Ewart & O.B.Davies, *Flora of the Northern Territory* : 252(1917). **Hypoestes floribunda** var. **cinerea** R.M.Barker, *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 9: 214(1986), Type: Kanis 1849, 16.vii.1974, road along 7 mile Creek, c. 20 km West of Wollgorang (CANB); isotype: (NT). **Hypoestes floribunda** var. **angustifolia** Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 4: 554(1868), Type: Victoria and Fitzmaurice rivers, F. Mueller. **Hypoestes floribunda** var. **pubescens** Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 4: 554(1868), Type: Wide Bay, Bidwill; Burdekin river, Leichhardt; N. coast of Arnhems Land, Kinley. N.S. Wales, Clarence river, Beckler. **Hypoestes floribunda** var. **canescens** Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 4: 554(1868), Type: Cape York, Daemel. **Hypoestes floribunda** subsp. **distans** Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 4: 554(1868), Type: Hunters River, N.W. Coast, A. Cunningham.

RFK Code

3005

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Flower. © R.L. Barrett



Fruit. © R.L. Barrett



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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