Hypserpa laurina (F.Muell.) Diels

Family: Menispermaceae

Common name:
Laurel-leaf Hypserpa; Hypserpa, Laurel-leaf

Stem
Vine stem diameters to 10 cm recorded. Living bark layer very thin.

Leaves
Leaf blades about 5.5-20 x 2-7.5 cm, petioles about 1.5-3.5 cm long. Leaf blades 3-veined, at least near the base. Young leaf bearing twigs clothed in white powdery or waxy indumentum. Oak grain in the twigs.

Flowers
Male flowers: Inflorescence about 15-18 cm long, pedicels about 1 mm long or the individual flowers almost sessile. Flowers about 5 mm diam. Sepals about 1.5-3 x 1-2 mm. Petals about 1 x 0.75 mm. Stamens about 12-15 per flower, about 1 mm long, anthers less than 0.25 mm long. Female flowers: Inflorescence about 3-4 cm long, flowers about 3-4 mm diam. Sepals in two whorls, glabrous, each sepal about 2 x 2 mm. Petals three. Staminodes eight. Carpels three, glabrous, less than 1 mm long. Ovules one per carpel.

Fruit
Fruits or fruiting carpels glabrous, globose, about 13-15 x 11-14 mm. Endocarps or seeds laterally compressed, about 9-12 x 8-10 mm, surface sculptured. 'Testa' intrusion globular, stalked in longitudinal section. Embryo horseshoe-shaped or U-shaped, cylindrical, about 1 mm diam. Radicle about 8 mm long, about as long as the cotyledons.

Seedlings
Cotyledons linear, about 16-20 x 1 mm, midrib but no other veins visible. First pair of leaves cordate. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade +/- elliptic, narrowly cordate to lanceolate, about 5.5-9 x 2-3.5 cm, apex acute, base cordate. Petiole about 1.8 cm long. Leaf 3-veined at the base. Stem marked by longitudinal ribs? Terminal bud clothed in pale hairs. Midrib slightly raised on the upper surface. Seed germination time 65 to 217 days.

Distribution and Ecology
Occurs in CYP, NEQ and CEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1000 m. Grows in lowland and upland rain forest. Also occurs in New Guinea.

Natural History & Notes
Fruit eaten by Cassowaries and Fruit Pigeons. Cooper & Cooper (1994).

Synonyms
Hypserpa selwynii F.Muell., *Second Systematic Census of Australian Plants*: 7(1889).

RFK Code
2026
Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO

10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO

Vine stem bark and vine stem transverse section. © CSIRO