Pleomele angustifolia (Medik.) N.E.Br.

Family: Asparagaceae

Common name: Native Dracaena

Stem

Seldom exceeding 30 cm dbh. Blaze odour may resemble that of freshly shelled peas (Pisum sativum).

Leaves

Leaves sessile, leaf blades about 17-40 x 2-3 cm, clasping the twig at the base. Midrib usually poorly defined with numerous longitudinal veins running parallel to the margins.

Flowers

Panicles about 15-40 cm long. Flowers in pairs. Pedicels about 5-10 mm long. Perianth united into a tube almost as long as the lobes. Perianth about 15-30 mm long.

Fruit

Fruit globular, about 10-15 mm diam. Seeds ca. hemispherical, about 8-9 mm diam. Testa smooth.

Seedlings

Roots bright orange. First pair of leaves about 40-50 x 4-5 mm, linear, finely acute at the apex with 3-5 longitudinally parallel veins. Leaves clasp the stem at the base. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves linear, sessile, apex finely pointed, veins numerous, running ca. parallel from base to apex. Seed germination time 34 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NT, CYP and NEQ. Altitudinal range from sea level to 600 m. Grows in lowland rain forest and monsoon forest usually at low elevations and often close to the sea. Also occurs in Malesia.

Natural History & Notes

Widely cultivated as an ornamental pot plant.

Synonyms

Terminalis angustifolius Medik., Theodora: 83(1786). Type: Description and plate, Rumphius, Herb. Amboin. 4:81 t. 35 (1743).

RFK Code

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Fruit, three side views and cross section. © W. T. Cooper

Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO

10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

Cotyledon stage, hypogeal germination. © CSIRO