

# *Pleuranthodium racemigerum* (F.Muell.) R.M.Sm.

## Family:

Zingiberaceae

Smith, R.M. (1991) *Edinb. J. Bot.* 48: 65.

## Common name:

Ginger, Raceme; Ginger, Orange Fruited; Orange Fruited Ginger; Raceme Ginger

## Stem

Usually flowers and fruits as a shrubby plant about 1-3 m tall but it should be noted that only the leaves are above ground level. The true stem is below the soil surface.

## Leaves

Leaf blades sessile, glabrous, about 25-46 x 6-10 cm, ligule about 0.2-0.5 cm long, margin entire, glabrous or sparsely ciliate.

## Flowers

Inflorescence pendulous, up to 30 cm long. Bracts caducous, one per flower. Bracteoles absent. Calyx about 6-10 mm long. Corolla tube shorter than the calyx, lobes up to 10 mm long. Labellum up to 10 x 10 mm. Anther about 3.5 mm long, without a crest, filament about 7-9 mm long, wider than the anther. Ovary about 3-4 mm long, pubescent.

## Fruit

Capsules orange, pubescent on the outer surface, about 15-20 mm long. Seeds numerous, green or black, about 5 mm long.

## Seedlings

One or two cataphyll-like leaves produced before the first true leaves. First true leaf cordate or ovate, about 6-7 mm long, petiole very short or nil. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade linear-lanceolate, about 9-10 x 1-1.5 cm very shortly petiolate, glabrous. Sheathing leaf base glabrous, ligule mainly glabrous except for a few ciliate hairs on the margins, apex truncate. Seed germination time 35 to 49 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1000 m. Grows in disturbed areas in well developed lowland and upland rain forest. Probably occurs in New Guinea, fide Smith (1987).

## Synonyms

*Psychanthus racemigera* (F.Muell.) R.M.Smith, *Edinb. J. Bot.* 47: 82(1990). *Alpinia racemigera* F.Muell., *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 8: 27(1874), Type: Queensland, Rockingham Bay, 28 Oct. 1870, J. Dallachy s.n.; lecto: MEL.

## RFK Code

3274



Flowers [not vouchered]. © G. Sankowsky



Flowering habit, inflorescence and flowers. © B. Gray



Leaves and flowers [not vouchered]. © G. Sankowsky



Fruit © CSIRO



Dehiscent fruit. © CSIRO



Fruit, side view, dehiscing and seeds. © W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, hypogeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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