**Stephania tuberosa** Forman

**Family:**
Menispermaceae


**Common name:**
Pumpkin Vine; Vine, Pumpkin

**Stem**
Vine stem diameters to 5 cm recorded. Deciduous, leafless for a period in May and June. Lenticels conspicuous. Stems attached to a large tuber (more than 50 cm diam.) on the surface of the ground. Small stems produce a red exudate.

**Leaves**
Freshly cut twigs produce an orange-red exudate. Twigs usually longitudinally grooved. Leaf blades cordate to orbicular, peltate, about 5.5-16 x 5.5-15 cm, petioles about 6.5-18 cm long. Leaf blades much paler on the underside. About 10-14 veins, including the midrib, radiate from the point on the leaf where the petiole joins the leaf blade.

**Flowers**
Male flowers: Flowers borne in inflorescences about 4-10 cm long. The flowers are borne in umbels and these umbels are then arranged in umbels. Primary peduncle about 40-45 mm long, secondary peduncles about 15 mm long. Flowers about 3 mm diam. Pedicels about 1 mm long. Sepals in two whorls each of three sepals. Sepals of the outer whorl obovate, about 1.7-2.5 x 1 mm. Sepals of the inner whorl orbicular, about 2 x 1.5 mm. Petals about 1.3-1.5 x 1.75 mm. Sepals and petals produce a red exudate when cut. Anthers borne in a peltate disk-like structure about 1 x 0.8 mm. Anther locules +/- forming a continuous gash.

**Fruit**
Fruits laterally compressed about 7-8 x 5-6 mm, borne in pendulous umbel-like clusters on peduncles up to 80 mm long. Style remnant persisting near the base of the fruit. Style remnant about 3.5 mm long. Seeds laterally compressed, about 6-7 x 5 mm, resembling a small curled up prawn. Embryo U-shaped or horseshoe-shaped, about 11-13 mm long. Cotyledons curved, about 4 mm long, shorter than the curved radicle.

**Seedlings**
Seedlings glabrous. Cotyledons oblong, about 14-20 x 1.5-3 mm, apex bluntly pointed, sessile, venation longitudinal and parallel. First leaves simple, peltate, +/- orbicular, much paler on the underside, petiole at least as long as the leaf blade, venation palmate. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade +/- orbicular, peltate with about 5-7 main veins radiating from the point of attachment of the petiole. Underside of the leaf blade pale and glabrous. Petiole slender, about 25-35 mm long, usually longer than the leaf blade. Stem and root thickened like a carrot (Daucus carota). Seed germination time 31 to 325 days.

**Distribution and Ecology**
Endemic to Queensland, occurs in CYP and NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 550 m. Grows in monsoon forest and the drier more seasonal rain forests.

**Synonyms**

**RFK Code**
2155