

Tylophora benthamii Tsiang

Family:

Apocynaceae

Tsiang, Ying (1936) *Sunyatsenia* 3: 231. Type: Mount Warning, Tweed River, N. S. W., C. Moore; holotype, MEL

Common name:

Coast Tylophora; Tylophora, Coast

Stem

A slender vine not exceeding a stem diameter of 2 cm.

Leaves

Twigs, petioles and leaves produce a yellow or creamy yellow exudate. Leaf blades about 7-11.5 x 4.5-8.2 cm, petioles about 1-3.5 cm long. Stems and petioles clothed in pale hairs. Lateral veins forming loops near the blade margin.

Flowers

Flowers about 10 mm diam, at anthesis. Calyx lobes about 3 mm long. Corolla lobes about 7 mm long. Pollen aggregated in pollinia. One pollinia per anther locule. Stigma globular, sessile.

Fruit

Individual fruiting carpels about 10.5 x 10 cm. Seeds numerous, each seed narrowly winged, about 9-10 mm long. Plume about 30 mm long, attached to one end of the seed. Embryo about 4.5-5 cm long. Cotyledons longer and narrower than the radicle.

Seedlings

Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ, CEQ with disjunct occurrences in south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range in northern Australia from near sea level to 950 m. Grows in rain forest and monsoon forest. Appears to be endemic to Australia but may also extend into New Guinea.

Natural History & Notes

This species may be used in Asian medicines.

A number of alkaloids were extracted from this species. Two of these alkaloids, viz. tylophorine and tylocrebrine, were active against a range of tumors. Limited clinical trials with tylocrebrine were conducted but were terminated because of evidence of irreversible effects on the central nervous system. Collins et al. (1990).

Care should be exercised handling large quantities of this species as some workers were temporarily blinded when employed for several days collecting large quantities of this species for drug evaluation.

Synonyms

Tylophora crebriflora S.T.Blake, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 59: 168(1948). *Tylophora floribunda* Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 4: 335(1868), Type: N.S. Wales. Mount Warning, Tweed river, C. Moore (Herb. F. Mueller, a single specimen).

Vincetoxicum polyanthum Kuntze, *Revisio Generum Plantarum* 2: 424(1891).

RFK Code

2585



Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO

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