



Marsdenia viridiflora subsp. *viridiflora*

Conservation Status

An endangered population of *Marsdenia viridiflora* subsp. *viridiflora* is found in the Bankstown, Blacktown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool and Penrith Local Government Areas and listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

Description

A twining shrub with milky sap, a potato-like tuber and stems to 4m long. Young stems and leaves are covered in soft hairs but become hairless with age. The leaves are narrow 2-12cm long with a prominent mid-vein and 1-5 minute glands at the base of the leaf.

Flowers are bell shaped, green to yellow 3-4mm diameter with five spreading lobes, arranged in clusters. Flowering time is November to December. The fruit are large, woody, pear shaped, 4-8cm long and up to 3.5cm wide, splitting in autumn to release plumed seeds that are wind dispersed.

Habitat

Marsdenia viridiflora subsp. *viridiflora* grows in woodland or forest on shale or Tertiary alluvium, or in vine thickets. Soils are clay often with gravels. Within Sydney it is found in Cumberland Plain Woodland (often at upper boundary of river-flat forest along creeks), in Moist Shale Woodland and Western Sydney Dry Rainforest.



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Location in Fairfield

Sub-populations of *Marsdenia viridiflora* subsp. *viridiflora* have been recorded in several council reserves in recent years where no-mow zones have been established. Examples include Wylde Park, Tasman Reserve, Curran Street Reserve and Fairfield Showground. There is also a sub-population within the Sartor Crescent / Allambie Road Bushland Reserve.

Locations in NSW

Marsdenia viridiflora subsp. *viridiflora* is widely distributed in Queensland but rare in NSW. A disjunct population occurs in western Sydney with the southern limit at Razorback.

Threats in Fairfield

The habitat of *Marsdenia viridiflora* subsp. *viridiflora* has been significantly reduced by clearing for urban expansion and agriculture. Within Fairfield ongoing threats include accidental damage, mowing, edge disturbance and weed invasion. The sub-populations are typically small and isolated making them vulnerable to extreme and unexpected events.

References:

James T (2015) Rare and Threatened Flora of Fairfield Local Government area.

James T (2016) Native Flora on Shale Soils of the Cumberland Plain, western Sydney—An Identification Guide

Office of Environment and Heritage (2011) *Marsdenia viridiflora* R. Br. subsp. *viridiflora* Population In The Bankstown, Blacktown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool And Penrith Local Government Areas population listing accessed on 8/2/2016



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