



Plants of

‘Grasstrees’:

A photographic guide

Part 5: Vines (climbers / creepers)

Ross McKenzie —

To the natural philosopher there is no natural object unimportant or trifling ... a soap bubble ...an apple ... a pebble ... He walks in the midst of wonders.

John Herschel (1792-1871): *A Preliminary Discourse
on the Study of Natural Philosophy* (1830)

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About the author

Dr Ross A. McKenzie PSM BVSc (Hons) MVSc DVSc (1949 –) is a retired veterinary pathologist and toxicologist who worked in the Queensland Department of Primary Industries during 1973-2009 and taught toxicology to veterinary students at the University of Queensland during 1994-2008. He is also an amateur botanist and photographer. In retirement, Ross wrote and illustrated the definitive 976-page *Australia's Poisonous Plants, Fungi and Cyanobacteria: A Guide to Species of Medical and Veterinary Importance*, published by CSIRO Publishing in 2012, as a plain-language tool for understanding and preventing poisonings by natural toxicants – ‘natural’ does not mean ‘harmless’. His interests include natural history, bush-walking, gardening with Australian native plants and photography of landscape and Australian native flora. As a member of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (now Native Plants Queensland), the Queensland Naturalists’ Club and privately with his botanical artist wife Glenyth, he has travelled widely throughout Australia, visiting all states and crossing the continent by road east-west and return several times.

Notice to Guests

This guide is not comprehensive. It covers the plants identified so far on *Grasstrees*. If you come across a plant that is flowering or fruiting and it is not included in this guide, please notify Trish or John Stadtmiller so that it can be investigated and hopefully included in a later edition. Thank you. I hope you enjoy your stay!

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Vines (climbers & creepers)

These perennial herbaceous plants usually use more robust plants or other solid structures for support, allowing them to grow upwards towards a source of light on long stems. Some are ground-hugging creepers that prefer full-sun habitats where they grow along the ground without using other plants or structures for support.

The vines on *Grasstrees* are described here in two groups:

- **Dicotyledons** – flowering plants producing two cotyledons (seed leaves) from their germinating seeds, with net-like (reticulate) arrangement of veins (venation) in their leaves, and with flower sepals and petals not in multiples of three
- **Monocotyledons** – flowering plants producing a single cotyledon from their germinating seeds, with a parallel lengthwise arrangement of veins in their leaves, and with flower sepals and petals arranged in threes

Dicotyledons

Peas

Glycine canescens (silky glycine) [Fabaceae]

- Creeper
- Trifoliate leaves
- Purple pea-type flowers



Glycine canescens (silky glycine): Plant in habitat



Glycine canescens (silky glycine): Flowering stem



Glycine canescens (silky glycine): Plant in habitat. Photographed near Charleville Q June 2010

***Hardenbergia violacea* (native sarsparilla) [Fabaceae]**

- Creeper
- Leaves simple, broad, tapered
- Flowers purple pea-type in spikes



Hardenbergia violacea (native sarsparilla): Plant in habitat



Hardenbergia violacea (native sarsparilla): Plant in habitat



Hardenbergia violacea (native sarsparilla): Leaf

Snake vine

Stephania japonica* var. *discolor (snake vine) [Menispermaceae]

- Vine, creeper
- Leaves heart-shaped (peltate)
- Fruit red berries (drupes) in clusters



Stephania japonica (snake vine): Fruiting plant in habitat



Stephania japonica (snake vine): Fruit



Stephania japonica (snake vine): Flowering vine. Scanned specimen from Dayboro January 2004

Apple berry

***Billardiera scandens* (apple berry) [Pittosporaceae]**

- Creeper
- Drooping cream-green tubular flowers
- Flower base hairy
- Fruit dark blue cylindrical berry



Billardiera scandens (apple berry): Flowering plant in habitat



Billardiera scandens (apple berry): Flowering twig

Clematis

***Clematis glycinoides* (old man's beard) [Ranunculaceae]**

- Creeper
- White flowers, long thin petals



Clematis glycinoides (old man's beard): Flowering plant in habitat



Clematis glycinoides (old man's beard): Flowering twig



Clematis glycinoides (old man's beard): Flower

Monocotyledons

Wombat berry

***Eustrephus latifolius* (wombat berry) [Luzuriaceae]**

- Creeper
- White fringed flowers, 6 petals
- Orange berries splitting to reveal black seeds in white pith



Eustrephus latifolius (wombat berry): Flowering shoot