

Marsdenia rostrata,

Common name:

Milk vine

Palatability to Livestock:

Not known to be eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Unknown, probably toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Pigs sheep cattle.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Unknown,
- . Steroidal alkaloids.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Unsteady gait, incoordination and collapse,
- . Struggling and paddling,
- . Laboured respiration, fast pulse,
- . Dilated pupils,
- . Coma and death.

Health and Production Problems;

Coma, death, bloating.

Treatment;

None. Try tannic acid, or charcoal.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.
- . Dig out and destroy.

Comments:

- . Grows into a tall liana (monkey rope), mainly seen as a dense scrambler, slightly hairy, or smooth.
- . Exudes a milky sap if damaged.
- . Leaves are opposite, glossy deep mid green upper, paler below, long and tapered to a fine point at the tip.

. Clusters of pale yellow to white flowers are sweetly scented, on slender stalks, in forks of leaves.

. Pods are tapered to the tip, with broad, flat, seeds, with tuft of silky hairs at one end.

. Found from the Atherton tableland, coastal Queensland, NSW to eastern Victoria.

. Mainly in rainforest areas, or regrowth.

. The vine may be attractive in dry times.

. Toxins are present in leaves and stems.

. Recorded poisonings occurred in June/July.



Picture: *Marsdenia rostrata*,
planetnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1983
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook.1983.
- . Baker, Corrington and Dark.
Native Plants of the Sydney Region. 1986.