

## ***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.rbgsyd.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.