PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Freycinetia excelsa* F. Muell.

**GENUS** *Freycinetia* **FAMILY** Pandanaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Slender Climbing Pandan

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit

The fruit are eaten but burn the back of the throat possibly due to oxalates.

## DESCRIPTION

It partly attaches to and grows from other plants. It is an evergreen vine. It climbs to a height of 30 m. The stem is vigorous with many branches. It scrambles over logs and rocks. The stem is less than 1 cm across. The leaves are fairly rigid and curve and have spiny edges. They are 30-50 cm long and 0.6-0.8 cm wide. The form a short sheath around the stem at their base. The flowers are small and have red bracts around them. The bracts are 5-7 cm long by 2.5-3.5 cm wide. The female heads are in groups of 1-4 and are 3-4 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. The male spikes are in groups of 1-3 and are 2-3 cm long by 1-1.5 cm wide. The fruit is a cluster of berries. Each berry is 0.7 cm across and they are bright red. The fruit are produced at the stem tips. The fruit are edible

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical and subtropical places. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 1250 m altitude. It needs a protected, partly shady position. It is damaged by drought and frost.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

It is grown by dividing the stem. They can be grown from seed.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

In Australia, fruit occur from January to April.

## NOTES

There are about 100-175 Freycinetia species.

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