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SHORT COMMUNICATION
Rediscovery of the previously Extinct Marsdenia araujacea F.Muell. (Apocynaceae)

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At the time of my taxonomic account of Marsdenia R.Br. in Australia and Papuasia, the species M. araujacea F.Muell. had not been recollected since 1893 (Forster 1995) and consequently has been listed as Extinct (viz. EPBC 1999) or Extinct in the Wild (NCWR 2006). This is no longer the case following a recent collection slightly to the north of the previously known distribution. The species is still apparently uncommon as the primary collector stated that only a single specimen was seen. However, this group of Marsdenia species (M. glandulifera C.T.White, M. hemiptera H.Rchb., M. paludicola P.I.Forst.), are patchily distributed in Australia, often in spring fed rainforest systems from northern New South Wales through eastern Queensland and across into the Northern Territory.

Taxonomy
Marsdenia araujacea F.Muell., Fragm. 6: 135 (1868). Type: Queensland. Cook District: Stone River, 24 October 1866, J. Dallachy s.n. (holo: MEL 113385, 113386); iso: BRI [AQ333092]).


The previous species description can be amended slightly, viz.

Fruit fusiform-ovoid, glabrous, 13.5–15 cm long, 5–8 cm wide (fully expanded), slightly warty near tip and with the tip slightly incurved. Fig. 1.


Distribution and habitat: Marsdenia araujacea is endemic to northeast Queensland where it has been recorded from Binirr National Park (CYPAL) south to the Stone River, west of Ingham. The recent collection is from a Blepharocarya involucrigera F.Muell. gallery forest; these are invariably associated with permanent water, albeit often by tapping underground springs or aquifers. Blepharocarya dominated communities are widespread; however, they are often linear in distribution following water courses or otherwise just around a water source.

Conservation status: This species is now assigned Endangered conservation status under the NCA (1992).

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References


Fig. 1. *Marsdenia araujacea* (Thompson SLT16602 et al., BRI).