Bush-tucker tree!





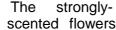
Dioscorea transversa – family: DIOSCOREACEAE

NATIVE YAM

A slender twining vine up to 4m with an underground tuber Tiny male flowers on spikes and tiny female flowers on racemes in summer; fruit an important food for hawk moths

Cultivation: Fast-growing if fed and watered well; hardy in full sun and tolerant of deep shade.

This fast-growing vine is found in a range of rainforests and Eucalypt forests, mostly in eastern Australia. It is a perennial climbing plant with an edible tuber that is said to taste like a crisp but slimy potato if eaten raw, and a waxy potato if cooked. It has alternate, attractive heart-shaped leaves. The strongly-



scented flowers are followed by 3-lobed fruit in the form of winged capsules containing flat seeds. They become papery as they age and hang on to the plant for months.

A decoction of this native yam was used by some indigenous people as an application for skin cancers. It can regrow from tiny pieces of root and the seed is easy to germinate.



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