



Melodinus australis – family: APOCYNACEAE

BELLBIRD VINE – HARLEQUIN FRUIT

Scrambling rainforest vine, not rampant
Small strongly perfumed, yellow flowers followed by
attractive bird-attracting edible orange fruit
- **Milky sap may be toxic** –

Cultivation: Shelter and partial shade when young will ensure a hardy, adaptable mature plant; flowers and fruits best in strong light; can be pruned to a shrubby shape.



This is a large woody climber in the canopy but is more often seen as a few winder stems in the understorey. Growing in the wetter rainforest types from S.E. NSW to north of Cooktown in Qld it is usually found on better soils. The orange part of the fruit is very sweet, resulting in the name 'Brown Sugar Vine' in north Qld, **but green or milky parts are toxic**. A sticky milky sap exudes from broken stems or leaves and is toxic like other members of this family which include the Oleander, Allamanda and Thevetia.



Small fragrant yellow flowers are followed by the colourful banded fruit which are hard to find being a great favourite of birds and flying foxes.