

Eustrephus latifolius

COMMON NAME

Wombat berry

FAMILY

Asparagaceae

AUTHORITY

Eustrephus latifolius R.Br.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes - Monocots

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Slender twining vine to 6 m tall, similar in general appearance to *Asparagus asparagoides*. Small tubers. Leaves obovate with acute to acuminate tips; veins 'parallel', all equal in size. Sepals 3, greenish-white, petals 3, fringed with long hairs. Fruit yellow to orange.

DISTRIBUTION

In NZ first recorded as naturalising near a planted specimen in a large garden in March 2018

SIMILAR TAXA

Asparagus asparagoides, but *Eustrephus* has yellow-orange rather than red fruit and has fringed petals.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

FRUITING

Yellow to orange with 3 carpels, each with 2-3 black seeds

YEAR NATURALISED

2018

ORIGIN

Malesia, western Pacific Islands, eastern Australia.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/eustrephus-latifolius/>



Slender vine, near-ripe fruit, planted by garden fence; near Fordell, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 04/03/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Seedlings among stones in garden, near planted fruiting vine; near Fordell, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 04/03/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.