# Cryptic forest TWINER (*Tylophora woollsii)*

# This name is a synonym of [Vincetoxicum woollsii](http://www.worldfloraonline.org/taxon/wfo-0001103180;jsessionid=DE04D81007B45C9860213CE0C25093B2) Factsheet

The Cryptic Forest Twiner endangered climbing plant in the Granite Belt region in Queensland and New England region in NSW. It is considered endangered in both ststates.

**DESCRIPTION:**

* slender woody climber
* grows to 3 m long.
* paired leaves are on stalks 7 - 20 mm long
* leaves are elongated heart-shaped with a firm texture
* two to four tiny glands at the base of each leaf
* stems release a clear, watery sap if cut.
* purple to red flowers
* narrow seed-capsules split to release many seeds, each of which has a tuft of silky hair.

**DISTRIBUTION**

* found from the NSW north coast and New England Tablelands to southern Queensland but is very rare within that range.
* Known on the Tablelands from the Bald Rock and Boonoo Boonoo areas north of Tenterfield.

**HABITAT**

* grows in moist eucalypt forest, moist sites in dry eucalypt forest and rainforest margins
* Flowering occurs in summer and autumn, usually between January and March but sometimes as late as November.
* Thought to be wind-dispersed
* Plants appear to persist as a network of stems under leaf litter when aerial stems are absent.

**THREATS**

* Habitat clearing for agriculture.
* Habitat clearing for rural and residential development.
* Physical damage, particularly to roadside populations due to vehicles and associated roadworks.
* Competition with weeds may prevent growth of seedlings and regenerating plants and may increase fire risk.
* Slashing and spraying of roadsides in areas of habitat.
* Forestry operations may impact on individuals and their habitat.
* Risk of extinction because populations are small.
* Fungal infections such may contribute to the rarity of this species.
* Difficulty in identification may lead to incorrect identification and detection.

**RECOVERY STRATEGIES**

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* Site managed species, meaning that Tenterfield local council is responsible for management at this point.
* Information is restricted due to the sensitive nature of the plant, or the site. It is assumed that in order to further protect the plant from harm, known sites and intervention strategies are not made public.

**ACTIVITIES TO ASSIST THE CRYPTIC FOREST TWINER**

* Identify and mark all known roadside populations.
* Protect known habitat from clearing.
* Undertake weed control works ensuring careful use of herbicides.
* Enhance information on the species' identification and raise awareness of conservation significance of this species.
* Ensure frequent agricultural burning does not occur in known habitat and that fire regimes implemented are as per the recommendations for the habitat in which the population occurs.
* Prevent spread of disease through appropriate site management.

**References**

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=10816>

**Other Resources**

Atlas of Living Australia

<https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/2901871>

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