

Calopogonium

Twining perennial. Leaves pinnate, with three leaflets; stipels present. Flowers small, bluish purple. Stamens 8-10, 1 filament free, the others joined in a dorsally split tube. Style hairless. Pods several-seeded.

Calopogonium mucunoides

Calopo

Twining perennial with stems to several metres long. Stems densely covered with coarse 1.5mm brown spreading hairs, the nodes well separated along the stem. Stipules 3-4mm long, 2-3mm wide, triangular to heart-shaped, hairy, adpressed, persistent. Petiole 25-100mm long, rachis 5-20mm long, both covered with brown, spreading hairs. Stipels prominent, hairy, up to 3mm long. Leaflets dull green, 35-90mm long, 30-70mm wide, the laterals asymmetrical but similar in size to the terminal leaflet, broadest about the mid-point, rounded or broadly angled at the base and the tip, mucronate, covered with soft, spreading hairs on both surfaces.

Inflorescence a usually dense cluster of flowers borne in leaf axils or at the end of a hairy peduncle up to 160mm long or with clusters of up to 6 flowers at intervals along an elongated peduncle. Flowers 6-10mm long, single or in groups of 2-3 within the axils of c. 2.5mm hairy bracts. Calyx 5-6mm long, a pair of bracteoles at the base, densely covered with spreading 1mm brown hairs, the sepals joined for less than $\frac{1}{2}$ their length, the teeth tapering to fine points, the lower 3 teeth longer than the upper 2. Standard bluish purple, yellow-green towards the centre, c. 5mm wide, 5mm tall, markedly indented at the tip. Wings 6-10mm long from base of calyx, pale blue, 2mm longer than the pale blue keel.

Pod 25-40mm long, 4-5mm wide, usually straight, densely covered with spreading brown 1.5-2mm hairs, narrower along the mid-line than



Calopogonium mucunoides, Cape York, 12°45'S, 142°43'E.

the strongly thickened margins, when young darker between the seeds giving a ladder-like appearance, becoming dark brown when ripe, containing 2-7 seeds. Seeds c. 4mm long, 3mm wide, plump, more or less kidney-shaped to oval, yellow-brown, the surface dull.

Distribution: Co. A native of tropical America, naturalized in various wet tropical regions including Indonesia and P.N.G. Tends to favour heavy soils.

Notes: A productive and high-yielding species introduced as a pasture legume for the wet tropics but not readily eaten by cattle while green; more palatable in the dry season. Overseas an important cover crop for plantation crops such as rubber and cassava. May become a weed in cane fields. Nodulates. Self-pollinating.

References: 3, 16, 46, 50, 121, 141, 303, 306.

Canavalia

Robust twining or prostrate herbaceous annuals or perennials. Leaves pinnate, with three leaflets. Stipels present. Flowers large, purple. Stamens 10, the filaments all more or less joined or the upper one free. Style hairless. Pods more than 20mm wide.

Key to species

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Standard c. 40mm long; lower leaf surface densely silky-hairy | <i>C. sericea</i> |
| Standard 15-35mm long; lower leaf surface sparsely to moderately hairy | 2 |
| 2. Leaflets thick, nearly circular; pods mostly less than 30mm wide; plants restricted to the seashore | <i>C. rosea</i> |
| Leaflets more or less pointed; plants not occurring along the seashore | 3 |