

# Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

## Freycinetia percostata

### Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable



Photo: M. Armstrong

### Description

*Freycinetia percostata* is a moderately large woody climber, with stems to 2 cm diameter. The leaf auricles each have a distinct apical deltoid lobe, with margins distinctly ciliate-spinulose. The spathe is yellow-orange to salmon pink. The male spikes are pale to orange-brown. The broken fruit is crimson.

Fruiting: Nov.

### Distribution

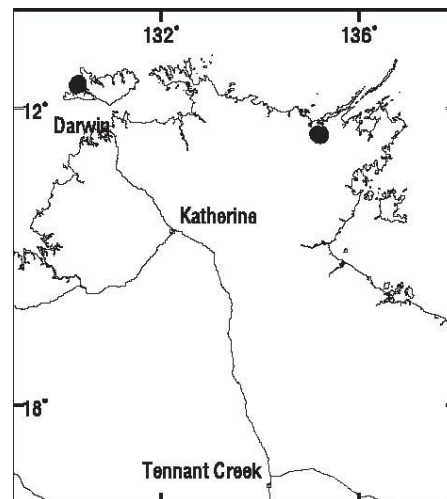
It is known from Australia, New Guinea and the Solomon Islands (Stone 1982). In the Northern Territory, it has been recorded from localities on Bathurst Island and the Arafura Swamp.

*Conservation reserves where reported:*

None.

### Ecology

It occurs in wet lowland rainforest and spring-fed rainforests in sandstone gullies (Woinarski *et al.* 2003).



Known locations of *Freycinetia percostata*.

### Conservation assessment

In the NT, this species is known only from two wet rainforest patches of restricted area. The species is considered **Vulnerable** (under criteria D1+2) based on:

- the total number of individuals estimated to be <1000; and
- a restricted area of occupancy estimated to be < 20 km<sup>2</sup>.

## Threatening processes

The impact of feral animals on this species is unknown but pigs in large numbers are likely to affect recruitment either through disturbance or grazing. Populations on the Tiwi Islands, although inland, would be susceptible to severe cyclonic events. Any changes to hydrology may affect this species.

## Conservation objectives and management

A Recovery Plan for this species, and other threatened plants on the Tiwi Islands, is due to be released in 2007, but many actions in its draft are currently being implemented.

Research and further surveys are required to establish the status of these populations, the distribution of the species and the impact of feral animals. Fencing to keep out feral animals would not be practical. A monitoring program should be established.

## Compiled by

Raelee Kerrigan  
Ian Cowie  
[April 2006]

## References

- Stone, B.C. (1982). The Australian species of *Freycinetia* (Pandanaceae). *Brunonia* 5, 79-94.
- Woinarski, J., Brennan, K., Cowie, I., Kerrigan, R., and Hempel, C. (2003). *Biodiversity conservation on the Tiwi islands, Northern Territory. Part 1. Plants and environments*. 144 pp. (Department of Infrastructure Planning and Environment, Darwin.)