

# Threatened species of the Northern Territory

## *Freycinetia percostata*

### Conservation status

#### Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

#### Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

### 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: November.

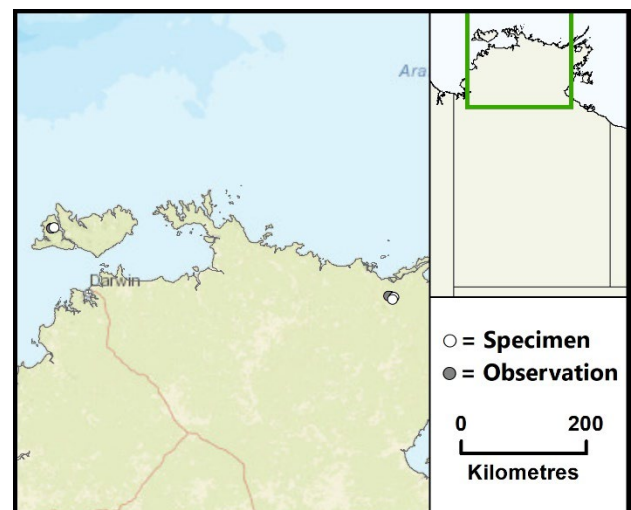
### Distribution

It is known from Australia, New Guinea and the Solomon Islands<sup>1</sup>. In the Northern Territory, it has been recorded from localities on Bathurst Island and the Arafura Swamp.

NT conservation reserves where reported: None.



Credit: M. Armstrong



Caption: Known locations of *Freycinetia percostata* in the NT ([nrmmaps.nt.gov.au](http://nrmmaps.nt.gov.au))

## Ecology

It occurs in spring fed, lowland rainforest and similar rainforests in sandstone gullies.

## 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. Localities on the Tiwi Islands, although inland, would be susceptible to severe cyclonic events. The potential threats to the species and its habitat are excessive ground water drawdown, coupled with grassy weed invasion and resulting intensified fire regimes following intensification of land use in adjacent areas. Land development for horticulture adjacent to known localities<sup>2,3</sup> would increase demand for ground water for irrigation, potentially affecting rainforest patches.

## Conservation objectives and management

A Recovery Plan for the threatened plant species of the Tiwi Islands was released in 2008 and many actions have been implemented.

Research and further surveys are required to establish the status of 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 to assess demographic change and disturbance response at known sites should be established.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Stone, B.C. 1982. The Australian species of *Freycinetia* (Pandanaceae). *Brunonia* 5, 79-94.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Land Resource Management 2015a. Tiwi Island Economic Development - Bio-Physical Resources of North East Bathurst Island (Summary Report). Technical Report Number 12/2014/D Department of Land Resource Management, Darwin, Northern Territory.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Land Resource Management 2015b. Tiwi Island Economic Development - Bio-Physical Resources of North East Bathurst Island (Technical Report). Technical Report Number 12/2014/D Department of Land Resource Management, Darwin, Northern Territory.

<sup>4</sup> Liddle DT and Elliott LP. 2008. *Tiwi Island threatened plants 2006 to 2008: field survey, population monitoring including establishment of a program to investigate the impact of pigs, and weed control*. Report to Natural Resource Management Board (NT), NHT Project 2005/142, Northern Territory Government Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport, Palmerston.