

Cordyline petiolaris

(Agavaceae)

Common name: Broad-leaved palm lily.

Localities: Kholo Creek, Moggill State Forest, Upper Brookfield and other rainforests in the district.

Growth form: A medium shrub to 4 m tall, occasionally branched.

Foliage: The leaves are long and narrow, the blades up to 80 cm long, 12 cm wide.

Flowers and fruit: Flowers are tiny and lilac-coloured, and are produced in long panicles from spring to summer; they are followed by bunched scarlet berries about 1 cm in diameter, containing black seeds.

Habitat: Dry rainforest and subtropical rainforest; also wet eucalypt forest.

Propagation and Management: May be propagated from seed or from stem or root cuttings. Broad-leaved palm lily is tolerant of infertile soils and of shade, but requires good drainage.

General: The berries are edible when ripe. *C. rubra* (red-fruited palm lily), with much shorter and narrower leaves, is also native to the district. Both species are grown for horticultural purposes.

