

Native Lassiandra

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The Native Lassiandra (*Melastoma affine*) is found through many areas of the sanctuary, including along the roadside, in the rainforest, and alongside the concrete track to the boardwalk. An alternative common name is Blue Tongue.

This is one of native plants which can be enjoyed in the home garden. While it can have a slightly spindly growth when competing for sunlight in the wet forest areas where it thrives, if pruned early in cultivation, it will develop a bushier habit.

The plant attains about two metres in height, has leathery leaves to ten centimetres with obvious longitudinal veins, unusual red stems, and red fruit (claimed to be edible). An oddity regarding the 7 cm mauvish-pink flowers is that the number of petals may vary from four to seven, but is generally five.

