



## *Freycinetia banksii*

### Common Name(s):

kiekie

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands to about the Clarence river in the east and Fiordland in the west. More common in the wetter parts of the South Island.

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane forest, usually in wet sites although once established it can tolerate very dry conditions. Often coastal in karst country where it may form huge tangles that make access extremely difficult.

### Features\*:

Densely branched, somewhat brittle, woody, climber producing numerous, weakly ascending to ascending dense cane-like stems from which roots freely emerge. Stems up to 40 mm diameter, deeply marked with scars of old leaves, usually branched in upper third, often somewhat interlacing such that the stems form dense tangles. Leaves densely tufted toward stem ends, spirally arranged; lamina 1.5-2 x 0.15-0.25 m; sheathing bases pale, otherwise dark green to green, usually yellow spotted, blemished or striped, strongly pleated, long attenuate, triangular in transverse section, margins and midrib distinctly though finely scabrid to spinulose. Inflorescences of 1-8 spadices, each simple and solitary in axil of 2-4 foliaceous bracts at stem apex; bracts thick, succulent towards base, white to purplish, edible (sweet tasting). Peduncle 10-40 mm, whitish, stout, glabrous; spadix 70-80 x 15-20 mm, pale yellow, cream, off white, cylindrical to slightly flattened, the axis hidden by tightly packed flowers such that individual flowers not easily determined. Male of several stamens each with a long filament, ovate anther and producing copious, confluent pollen, ovary rudimentary. Female with 6-12 purplish staminodes at base of flattened, vertically elongated ovary, 2-4 x 1 mm x 2 mm tall, long sides grooved between staminodes; stigmas 6-12, sessile, arranged around a long groove; locule narrow, placentae forming ridged around it. Fruits to 150 x 30 mm, brownish when ripe, sweet tasting (like caramel), borne on stiff woody peduncles. Individual fruits (phalanges) 8 x 2 x 10 mm, compressed laterally, thin-walled proximally, broadest 1/3 from base and almost woody towards apex. Seed 1 mm long, narrow, on a long, slender funicle.

### Flowering:

August - November

### Fruiting:

January - May

### Threats:

Not Threatened - however, over large parts of its range it is experiencing reproductive failure due to rats which eat the flowers and fruits. Possums also eat the flowers and fruits but it has been shown that they help disperse the seeds. Frey cinetia is one of the few New Zealand species with flowers said to be suited to bat pollination

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 4 April 2004. Description based on Moore & Edgar (1970).

### References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J.; Gardner, R.O.; Sykes, W.R.; Crowcroft, G.M.; Cameron, E. K. Stalker, F.; Christian, M.L.; Braggins, J.E. 2005: Vascular flora of Norfolk Island: some additions and taxonomic notes. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 43: 563-596.

Huyhn K-L 1993. Some new distinctive features between *Frey cinetia banksii* Cunn. (Pandanaceae) of New Zealand and *F. baueriana* Endl. of Norfolk Is. *Candollea* 48: 501-510.

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. II, Wellington, Government Printer.

Stone, B.C. 1973: Materials for a Monograph of *Frey cinetia* Gaudich. XIV. On the Relation between *F. banksii* A. Cunn. of New Zealand and *F. baueriana* Endl. of Norfolk Island, with Notes on the Structure of the Seeds. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 11: 241-246.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1900](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1900)



**Caption:** *Frey cinetia banksii* (Kiekie)

**Photographer:** Wayne Bennett



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