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Asparagus asparagoides

[Synonyms : *Asparagus medeoloides*, *Dracaena medeoloides*, *Elachanthera sewelliae*, *Luzuriaga sewelliae*, *Medeola asparagus*, *Medeola asparagoides*, *Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*]

BRIDAL CREEPER is an annual or perennial, twining climber. Native to South Africa it has glossy bright green leaf-like branches and green-striped, white flowers.

It is also known as African asparagus, African asparagus fern, Bridal veil creeper, Florist's smilax, *Lääkeparsa* (Finnish), *Liane asperge* (French), *Medeola* (Danish, Swedish), *Repulja* (Serbian), and Smilax.

Asparagoides is made up of the genus name *Asparagus* and Greek *-oides* (like) components meaning 'like plants in that (asparagus) genus'.

The common name Smilax is used by florists who rely upon it among their range of cut-flowers.

The red berries are particularly palatable to all manner of birds which then distribute the seeds over areas which may well have been free of the climber beforehand.

Since its introduction to Australia bridal creeper has become invasive in the southern part of the Continent where it can smother and displace groundcover and shrubs – so much so that it is one of the invasive aliens about which various conventions of interested parties were called in the 1990s in order to consider the most appropriate methods of control.