



Whitsunday
Catchment
Landcare

Newsletter

November 2021

www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au



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Central QLD Coast
Landcare
Network

A partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central QLD Coast Bioregions.

CATCHMENT COORDINATOR:

Cath Campbell

Ph.: 0483 811 229

coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au

PROJECT OFFICER:

Chris Barbeler

Ph.: 0488 768 567

project@whitsundaylandcare.org.au

CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION:

- Natural Resource Management
- Land management Plans
- Native plants
- Environmental weeds
- Volunteer activities

BECOME A VOLUNTEER:

Come seed collecting; learn to identify native plants; how to propagate them; improve your environment; enjoy the outdoors in a fun, social setting.

If you're interested in doing your bit for the environment and socialising with like-minded people, we offer coordinated activities on Tuesday & Thursday mornings and more. Contact us!

WCL Management Committee:

Graham Armstrong, Chair

Jacquie Sheils, Secretary

Glenda Hodgson, Treasurer

Dale Mengel

John Casey

WRC representative- CR. Gary Simpson

One Community position vacant

WCL is a community not-for-profit group, relying on grants & donations.

We are a registered charity; donations of

\$2 or more are tax deductible. To make a donation please contact us or go to our page:



Coming Up in November 2021
COMMUNITY NURSERY OPEN FOR PLANT SALES
(CASH ONLY)

**9am-12noon Tuesday, Thursday & the 1st Saturday of each month-
Next Saturday opening—6th November 2021.**

Annual General Meeting—25th November 2021
See page 2 for Details

Volunteer Activities in November
Thursday November 18th

Due to planning for the AGM no alternative event will be offered this month

Volunteer Activities in December
Reef Clean monitoring

Conway Beach— Wednesday -8th December 9am.
Wilson Beach—Saturday 11th December 9am

At the Community Nursery in November.
33 Kelsey Creek Rd Proserpine
Tuesday & Thursday 9am—12.30pm.

For enquiries please Ph. 0483 811 229 or email:
coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au

Tuesday	Thursday
2nd: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.	4th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
9th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.	14th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
16th: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	21st: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the Nursery
26th: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	28th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
30th: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	

WCL receives support from the following organizations:



Australian Government
Department of the Environment



Notice to all Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Members

2021 Annual General Meeting

This years AGM will be held on Thursday the 25th November 2021.

7pm at the Canegrowers Board Room
88 Main Street Proserpine.

We are proposing to have dinner at the Metropole Hotel a 6pm then commence the meeting at the Canegrowers Board Room at 7pm.

If you wish to nominate for the Committee please request a nomination form from Cath when you RSVP. Nominations will be taken form the floor on the night.

Please RSVP if you will be attending the AGM meeting &/or the dinner by
Tuesday the 23rd November 2021.

Call Cath on 0483 811 229 or
email coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au



The Quarterly Reef Clean Monitoring Activity is coming up

**On behalf of Whitsunday Landcare,
Jan & Graham Armstrong are
conducting the Tangaroa Blue "Reef
Clean " monitoring exercise at
Conway and Wilson's Beaches in early
December**

We are looking for 2 – 4 people to join us on the exercise which involves formally recording marine debris along designated transects followed by a general beach clean-up. The money received from doing the project will be utilised to resource and expand our volunteer nursery at Kelsey Creek.

The details are:

Conway Beach—Wednesday 9th December 9AM– meet at the carpark at the end of Allen Road.

Wilson's Beach– Saturday 11th December 9AM– meet at the park opposite the swimming enclosure

So if you have a spare couple of hours on either day we'd love to see you. All the standard requirements for a volunteer event will apply. Safe clothing/sign on etc.

Give Graham a call on 0416658047 for further information.

What's Showing

Family: Orchidaceae

Common name: Swamp Lily

Scientific name: *Phaius australis*

Description: *Phaius* species are the largest ground orchids in Australia and are commonly called swamp orchids. *Phaius australis* plants have a partially buried bulb-like structure at their base, about 7cm in diameter, which bears up to 7 leaves.

Distribution: *Phaius australis* grows in areas where soils are almost always damp, but not flooded for lengthy periods. Sands are generally the underlying soil type. *P. australis* are usually found in coastal habitats between swamps and forests or in suitable areas further inland. This includes swampy sclerophyll forest dominated by melaleucas, swampy forest that often have sclerophyll emergents, or fringing open forest and melaleuca swamp forest associated with rainforest species. *P. australis* has also been recorded in wallum, sedgeland, rainforest and closed forest. They often grow in deep shade, but can also occur in full sun. This species occurs at higher altitudes in northern Queensland. (Barker 1995)

Leaves: *Phaius australis* plants have a partially buried bulb-like structure at their base, about 7cm in diameter, which bears up to 7 leaves. Leaves are tapered at each end, and grow up to 1.25m long and 10cm wide. The leaves are dark green, thin-textured, wavy in appearance and spread in a tussock.

Flowers: The flowering stem can reach 2m in height and bears 4-16 large and spectacular flowers. Flowers are 10-15cm in diameter, cinnamon-brown to brick-red on the inside, white on the outside and can have yellow veins. The colour of the central large petal ranges from yellow to bright purple. The flowering season of *Phaius australis* is mainly between August and December. Flowers are long lasting and open progressively so that a plant is in flower for several weeks. Both cross and self pollination have been documented, but the exact breeding system is unknown.

Fruit: Pods are large, 3 chambered capsules, splitting when ripe to release numerous fine white seeds. (Barker 1995)

Propagation: *P. australis* is easily propagated from seed and may also be propagated by division of the clump. It is also reported that new plants can be obtained by cutting the flower stem into pieces and placing them on a moist surface.

Notes: *Phaius*...From Greek *phaios*, dusky. apparently referring to the flower colour but most are anything but "dusky"! *australis*... from Latin, *australis*, southern, referring to the geographical distribution of the species. Listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act* (i.e. facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with prescribed criteria). Classified as 3VC-under the ROTAP * system.

Until relatively recently, *Phaius australis* was classified as *P. tancarvilleae* but plants formerly ascribed to that species have been reclassified as *P. australis* in the Australian Plant Census. The other Australian species, *P. bernaysii* and *P. amboinensis* were also previously included in *P. tancarvilleae* (which is now considered to be a related species found in parts of Asia).

P. australis is the most widely cultivated of the Australian species. Unlike most Australian terrestrial orchids, *P. australis* is easily grown. It does best in a large container with a potting mix which is high in humus content. It prefers a position in semi-shade.

Sources: <http://anpsa.org.au/p-tan.html>,



Above: *Phaius australis*
Photo: C. Campbell

Plant Pest Hall of Fame– Restricted Invasive plant

Cat's claw creeper is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014. It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO)

Family: Bignoniaceae. **Deciduous.**

Common Name: Cats Claw Creeper

Botanical name: *Dolichandra unguis-cati* syn. *Macfadyena unguis-cati*

Origin: Central & South America. It is widely naturalised around the world, occurring in southern Africa, south-eastern USA and Hawaii, Asia, the Pacific Islands, Republic of Cape Verde, Mascarene and recently in Europe.

Description: Cat's claw creeper is a long-lived rampant vine with long slender stems & bright yellow flowers. Older stems become very woody with time. The vine bears very long, narrow and flat pods containing many papery seeds.

Leaves: The compound leaves are oppositely arranged and are borne on leaf stalks (petioles) 5-25 mm long. They consist of a pair of oval (elliptic) to slightly elongated (lanceolate) leaflets and a third 'leaflet' that has been modified into a small three-clawed tendril (each claw is 3-17 mm long). The leaflets (10-80 mm long and 4-30 mm wide) are hairless (glabrous) with entire margins and pointed tips (acute or acuminate apices). However, young seedlings have simple leaves with slightly toothed margins.



Cat's Claw Creeper smothering native vegetation along the Proserpine River. Photo: B. Alden



Left Photo: QLD Government



Right: Photo: QLD Government

Flowers: (4-10 cm long and up to 10 cm wide) are tubular and have five petal lobes (corolla lobes), each about 1-2 cm long. These flowers usually have several fine reddish-orange lines in their throats. They also have five partially fused sepals (a calyx tube) 10-18 mm long. Flowers are borne singly or in small clusters originating in the leaf forks (in axillary clusters). It flowers in spring.

Fruit & Seeds: The fruit (15-50 cm long and 8-12 mm wide) are initially glossy green in appearance, but turn dark-brown as they mature. They are very elongated (linear), flattened, strap-like capsules (they are not pods). Each fruit contains numerous papery seeds (10-40 mm long and 4-10 mm wide). These oblong seeds have two see-through (translucent) wings that are not easily separated from the rest of the seed. The numerous seeds have papery wings that aid dispersal, particularly by water and wind. Seed capsules mature in late summer to autumn, approximately 8-10 months after flowering. Seed begins to drop in late May, with peaks in July and August. Seeds germinate best when not buried and will germinate readily in moist leaf litter. Although seed viability is low, seed production is high and some seeds produce multiple seedlings.

Notes: Established plants can reproduce vegetatively from tubers and creeping stems. Detached tubers and cuttings may resprout in moist conditions. Roots start to develop tubers in their second year and plants may be well established before they start to flower. Plants are capable of surviving heavy frost but seed germination is reduced at low temperatures. Cat's claw creeper grows in a range of soil types, but does not tolerate poorly drained soils. Cat's claw creeper prefers warm-temperate, tropical and sub-tropical areas. It can be found in gardens, over fences, along roadsides, waterways and in disturbed rainforests. It occurs in coastal and sub-coastal areas of south-eastern Queensland, and in central and northern Queensland.

Physical control:

Use a pruning saw, machete or brush hook to cut all leads/ stems up the trees. All above the cut will die, but regrowth will occur from the underground tubers. Digging the tubers out is not practical in most cases. Don't allow the regrowth to reach host tree's canopy; if they get away you will have to re-cut them. **Herbicide control:** The regrowth is best treated with a foliar spray. Glyphosate 360 (mixed at a rate of 83 mL to each 1 L of water) can be applied in a cut stump method. It is best done in pairs. Cut the lead as close to the ground as possible and spray/paint on the herbicide. The glyphosate must be applied within 15 seconds of cutting—while the sap is running—to take the poison down into the roots and tubers. If not within 15 seconds, re-cut lower and try again. Because of the multitude of tubers the herbicide tends to knock them down one at a time with new regrowth coming from the next tuber. **Be prepared to continue control over the next five years.**

Biological control:

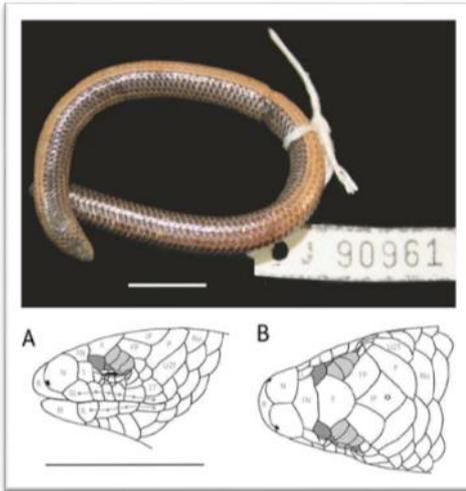
Cat's claw creeper is currently a target for biological control. The tingid bug *Carvalhotingis visenda*, the moth *Hypocossia pyrochroma* and a leaf-mining jewel beetle *Hylaeogena jureceki* have been released. The tingid is widely established in majority of release sites and cause visible effects in some areas.

Sources: https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/63336/IPA-Cats-Claw-Creeper-PP139.pdf
[http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/efrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Macfadyena_unguis-cati_\(Cats_Claw_Creeper\).htm](http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/efrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Macfadyena_unguis-cati_(Cats_Claw_Creeper).htm)

Our Region is a hotspot for a newly recognised group of Legless Skinks

Graham Armstrong

Two new legless skink species endemic to our region have recently been described (1). The Mt Abbot Legless Skink, so far found only above 800m on Mt Abbot west of Bowen and the Sandstone Legless Skink, restricted to two separate sandstone ranges near Glenden have been recommended for interim conservation status until further surveys are conducted. Subtle differences in colour pattern, head scalation, genetic profiles and bone structure were used by researchers to describe the new species.



Above: New Species ; Mt Abbot Legless Skink - Taken from cited research paper (Hutchinson et al 2021)

The holotype of the Sandstone Legless Skink was collected under permit by local biologists and Whitsunday Landcare



Above: New Species ,Sandstone Legless Skink – Photo Brendan Schembri

members Graham Armstrong and Paul Horner, prompting a taxonomic review by researchers of this group of lizards. As a result a new genus (*Praeterops*) has been established containing 4 species including the two new ones. All 4 species are now known to occur in our region. Field work has determined that our region is a hotspot for this particularly hard to find group of lizards with all 4 species now known to occur within or on the border of the Whitsunday LGA. Graham & Paul have also collected an individual of the Short-necked Legless Skink at Airlie Creek extending the known northern extent of its distribution further north from Finch-Hatton (2). They also found an individual of the Speckled Legless Skink just north of Glenden, confirming a southerly range extension for this species



Above: Short-necked Legless Skink – Photo Paul Horner

from the previously stated southern limit of "White Mountains just west of Townsville" (2).

These small legless skinks only grow to around 10cm, live by burrowing amongst leaf litter and surface sands and loams, and can drop their tails if attacked by predators. Quoting from

the recently published research paper (1)

"The two new species described in this paper are of conservation concern,



Above: Speckled Legless Skink – Photo Mark Hutchinson

particularly when, as in the case of *P. auxilliger* (Sandstone LS), they are not in any protected area or, as in *P. monachus*, (Mt Abbott LS) they are potentially impacted by climate change. Another common characteristic of reduce limbed skinks, their cryptic habits, make them less likely to be observed opportunistically. Targeted surveys are required if we are to better understand their true distribution and conservation status."

References: *Diversity and Systematics of Limbless Skinks (Anomalopus) from Eastern Australia and the Skeletal Changes that Accompany the Substrate Swimming Body Form* . Authors: Hutchinson, Mark N., Couper, Patrick, Amey, Andrew, and Wilmer, Jessica Worthington Source: *Journal of Herpetology*, 55(4) : 361-384 Published By: Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles URL: <https://doi.org/10.1670/20-137>

A Complete Guide to Reptiles of Australia; 6th Edition 2021; by Steve Wilson & Gerry Swann

Never Give up on a native Cycad.....

About 2 years ago this poor old cycad that lives at Airlie foreshore looked as if it was not going to survive. It has taken about 2 years for the leaves at the top to stop sprouting. The leaves you can see in the middle are ferns. Well the cycad has rallied and is sprouting new leaves at the base.

Council has been notified and we are hoping that it will get a second chance to grow.



Left & right: Cycad at the Airlie Foreshore. Photo: E. Ten Harken



WCL Coordinator—Cath Campbell is retiring.

This will be my last newsletter as WCL Coordinator. It is time for me to retire from the position. I will still be an active volunteer for the organisation & I look forward to getting back into the world of native plants at the community nursery and working alongside my fellow volunteers.



Thank you to all the newsletter contributors that have made it fun and informative to produce.

I have enjoyed my time as Coordinator and am grateful for being able to make a contribution to Whitsunday Catchment Landcare.

I wish you all the best for the holiday season and may 2023 bring us all new adventures.

INTERESTING WEB SITES:

Native Animals, Insects, Birds:

www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au

<http://www.wildlife.org.au/magazine/>

<http://www.aussiebee.com.au>

www.birdsinbackyards.net

www.australianmuseum.net.au/reptiles

<http://birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-mackay/activities-mac>

Native plants:

<http://ausgrass2.myspecies.info/content/oplismenus>

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/rfk/>

<https://www.eucalyptaustralia.org.au/>

<http://sgaptownsville.org.au/>

www.facebook.com.au/sgapmackay

Wetlands

<http://wetlandinfo.ehp.qld.gov.au/wetlands/ecology/components/flora/mangroves/mangrove-moreton.html>

Feral Animals: feralflyer@invasiveanimals.com

<https://alumni.uq.edu.au/cane-toad-baits>

Feral plants:

www.weeds.org.au

www.environment.gov.au › Biodiversity › Invasive species › weeds

www.iewf.org/weedid/index_by_reserve.htm

www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/herbarium/

<https://www.vision6.com.au/em/mail/view.php?id=1769275019&a=17056&k=a87f8df>

WCL Community Nursery– Always Needs Seeds

The WCL Nursery is very keen to source endemic seed so please keep an eye on your flowering native trees, shrubs & grasses for the volunteer nursery. Some of the species we need are:

<i>Abutilon auritum</i>		<i>Lagerstroemia archeriana</i>	
<i>Abutilon albescens</i>		<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brush Box
<i>Acacia aulacocarpa</i>		<i>Lophostemon grandiflorus</i>	Nthn Swamp Mahogany
<i>Acacia leptocarpa</i>		<i>Lysiphyllum hookeri</i>	Hookers Bauhinia
<i>Acacia leptostachya</i>		<i>Macaranga tanarius</i>	Macaranga
<i>Acacia simsii</i>		<i>Melaleuca dealbata</i>	Blue Tea Tree
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>		<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	
<i>Alphitonia petriei</i>		<i>Melaleuca viminalis</i>	Weeping Bottle Brush
<i>Antidesma parviflorum</i>		<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	Corkwood, Euodia
<i>Aphananthe philippinensis</i>		<i>Memecylon pauciflorum</i> var. <i>pauciflorum</i>	
<i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>	Alexander Palm	<i>Micromelum minutum</i>	Native Lime Berry
<i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>	Black she-oak	<i>Omphalea celata</i>	
<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>		<i>Pandanus</i> sp.	
<i>Aidia racemosa</i>	Archer Cherry	<i>Petalostigma pubescens</i>	
<i>Atalaya rigida</i>	Veiny Whitewood	<i>Planchonia careya</i>	Cocky Apple
<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	Coffee Bush	<i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>	Solitaire palm
<i>Cajanus reticulatus</i>	Native Pigeon Pea	<i>Phyllanthus novae-hollandiae</i>	
<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	Freshwater mangrove	<i>Sterculia quadrifida</i>	Peanut Tree
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	River oak	<i>Syzygium australe</i>	River cherry
<i>Chionanthus ramiflorus</i>	Native Olive	<i>Tabernaemontana orientalis</i>	
<i>Cordia dichotoma</i>		<i>Timonius timon</i>	Tim Tam Tree
<i>Cordia subcordata</i>	Sea Trumpet	<i>Trema tomentosa</i> var. <i>aspera</i>	Peach-leafed Poison Bush
<i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i>		<i>Trema orientalis</i>	
<i>Corymbia intermedia</i>	Pink Bloodwood	<i>Vachellia bidwillii</i> (WAS <i>Acacia bidwillii</i>)	Corkwood
<i>Corymbia tessellaris</i>	Morton Bay Ash	<i>Vitex trifolia</i>	Vitex
<i>Corymbia erythrophloia</i>	Red Bloodwood		
<i>Cryptocarya hypospodia</i>	Large leafed Laurel		
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Tuckeroo		
<i>Diospyros compacta</i>			
<i>Diospyros geminata</i>			
<i>Diospyros hebecarpa</i>			
<i>Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum</i>			
<i>Elaeocarpus grandis</i>	Blue Quandang		
<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i>	Narrow-leafed Ironbark		
<i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i>			
<i>Eucalyptus exserta</i>	QLD Peppermint		
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	QLD Blue Gum		
<i>Euroschinus falcatus</i>	Ribbonwood		
<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	Cluster fig		
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native frangipani		
<i>Indigofera pratensis</i>			
<i>Ixora timorensis</i>			
<i>Ganophyllum falcatum</i>	Scaly Ash		

Guidelines for seed collecting:

- Only collect seed from your own property or with written permission
- Source plants must have grown from seed from the Whitsunday Region
- Collect ripe, mature seed & no more than 10% of the seed from any one plant
- Collect from several parts of the plant, mainly the middle & upper branches
- Use paper bags (not plastic) to store the seed & keep them in a cool place
- Label the bag with the species, location, date and your name. Not sure of your plant identification? Include a stem with some leaves & /or take a photo.

You can drop seed off at the nursery on Tuesday or Thursday mornings, at 33 Kelsey Creek Road Proserpine, or call 0483 811 229.

You can make a tax deductible donation to the Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Fund at any time. Just go to <http://www.givenow.com.au/whitsundaycatchmentlandcare> All donors will receive a receipt from Givenow at the time of the do-

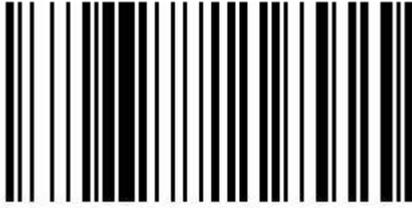
If you would like to receive this e-newsletter please email coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au with your request. Or you can phone Cath on mbl:0483 811 229 to request one.

Disclaimer: Information in this newsletter is offered as a guide only and while every care is taken to ensure its accuracy, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

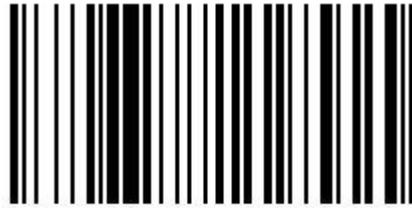


Thank You Everyone!

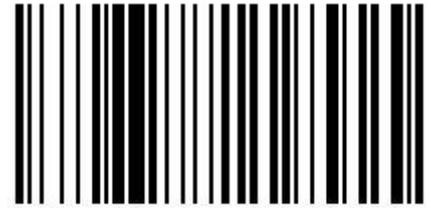
Thank you to so many of you who have generously and kindly donated your container refunds to WCL. Your contributions are allocated to the WCL Public Fund which allows WCL to take on various projects for the ongoing education of our members and the wider community. Please find below our Containers for Change ID number to conveniently cut off and include in your bags. Anything Environmental who manage the local container exchange have moved to a QR Code– please find the new WCL ID below. Thank You again!



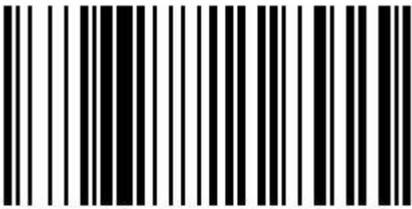
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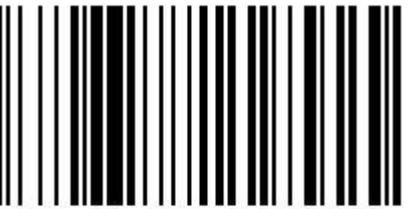
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