

# *Capparis quiniflora* DC.

**Family:**

**Capparaceae**

Candolle, A.P. de (1824) *Prodrromus* 1: 247. Type: in Novae-Hollandiae ora boreali. (v.s. in h. Mus. Par.).

**Stem**

Usually grows to form a tree-top vine but can flower and fruit when still at the shrub stage. Vine stem diameters to 5 cm recorded.

**Leaves**

Leaf blades about 3.5-12 x 1.5-7.5 cm, petioles pubescent, about 0.5-1.2 cm long. Leafy twigs and petioles clothed in brown or rusty brown hairs. Lateral veins forming loops inside the blade margin.

**Flowers**

Flowers produced in a straight line, one above the other, from the twigs, above each leaf. Sepals about 4-5 x 2-3 mm, the outer pair wider than the inner pair. Petals about 5-7 x 2-4 mm. Stamens seven or eight rarely up to 12. Gynophore about 20-28 mm long, +/- glabrous.

**Fruit**

Fruit subglobular, about 2-2.8 cm diam., pericarp corky-leathery, tuberculate. Seeds numerous, embedded in granular material, each seed about 5-6 mm long. Cotyledons folded and rolled and located +/- in the centre of the embryo spiral.

**Seedlings**

Cotyledons lanceolate-ovate, about 20-30 x 10-25 mm, apex acute, base obtuse. First pair of leaves elliptic to lanceolate, leaf blade about 3 x 1 cm, underside sparsely clothed in brown medifixed hairs. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade ovate-lanceolate, about 6-7 x 2.5 cm, without spines, petiole about 0.6-0.7 cm long, underside clothed in medifixed hairs at least when young. Twigs and petioles clothed in +/- prostrate, medifixed ferruginous hairs. Seed germination time 11 days.

**Distribution and Ecology**

Occurs in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ and CEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 300 m. Grows in beach forest, vine thickets, monsoon forest and open forest. Also occurs in Malesia, New Caledonia and Fiji.

**RFK Code**

**2075**



Flowers. © R.L. Barrett



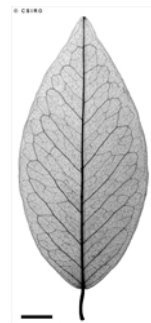
Flowers. © R.L. Barrett



Leaves and flowers. © R.L. Barrett



Fruit. © R.L. Barrett



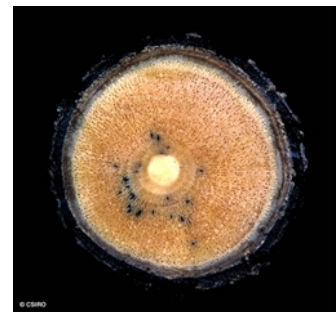
Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Vine stem transverse section. © CSIRO



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest>