

Capparis sp. Iron Range (B.Hyland 16395)

Family:

Capparaceae

Provisional HISPID phrase name.

Stem

Grows into a large tree-top vine but can also flower and fruit when much smaller. Vine stem diameters to 6 cm recorded.

Leaves

Stipules spiny, recurved, about 1-2 mm long but not present at every node. Leaf blades rather stiff and hard, about 6-12.5 x 2.5- 5.5 cm, petiole terete, transversely wrinkled, about 1-1.7 cm long. Lateral veins about 15-20 on each side of the midrib. Apex of the leaf blade ending in a hard point which is capable of penetrating the skin.

Flowers

Pedicels about 4-5 cm long. Calyx about 10-15 mm long. Outer pair of sepals fused to form a calyptra which splits irregularly. Inner pair of sepals free from one another. Petals irregular in size and shape, usually about 2-2.5 cm long. Staminal filaments about 2.5-3 cm long. Anthers about 3 mm long. Gynophore about 2.5-3 cm long. Ovary globular to ovoid, placentas 4, ovules stalked.

Fruit

Fruits +/- sausage-shaped, about 1.5 x 3.5 cm, on a stalk (gynophore) about 2 cm long. Seeds numerous, each seed about 10-11 mm long. Radicle curved around the periphery of the seed. Cotyledons somewhat crumpled.

Seedlings

Cotyledons narrowly ovate-elliptic, about 35-43 x 16-20 mm. cotyledons petiolate and stipulate. Cotyledon apex armed with a stiff and thickened point. Up to 2 cataphylls may be produced before the first pair of true leaves. First pair of true leaves +/- elliptic, apex aristate, tip pungent, base obtuse. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves 2-ranked, apex aristate, base shallowly cordate. Stipules spiny, about 7 mm long. Stem and petiole densely clothed in hairs. Seed germination time 34 days.

Distribution and Ecology

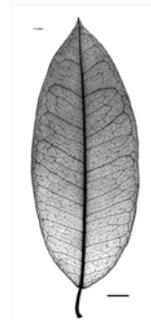
Known only from CYP, a few collections made in the Iron Range (Claudie River) area. Altitudinal range not great. Grows in or on the margins of gallery forest or monsoon forest.

RFK Code

2249



Herbarium sheet with fruit. © Australian Tropical Herbarium



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



Vine stem bark and vine stem transverse section. © CSIRO



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