

Cerbera floribunda K.Schum.

Family:

Apocynaceae

Schumann, K.M. (1889) *Die Flora von Kaiser Wilhelms Land*: 111. Type: II. Augusta-Station: Hollrung 717, 849. Schumann
Grashugel am Auguste - Flusse.

Common name:

Cassowary Plum; Rubber Tree; Plum, Cassowary; Milkwood, Grey; Cassowary Plum Tree; Grey Milkwood

Stem

Exudate rapid and copious.

Leaves

Petioles produce a milky exudate. Leaves crowded towards the ends of the rather stout twigs. Leaf blades about 9-30 x 2-5 cm, petioles about 3-4 cm long. Lateral veins about 13-20 on each side of the midrib.

Flowers

Flowers about 2.5-3 cm diam., centre pink to reddish. Sepals about 5-6.5 mm long. Corolla tube about 8-12 mm long, lobes about 7-15 mm long.

Fruit

Fresh fruits produce a milky exudate when cut. Fruits about 9-11 x 4.5-5.5 cm. Endocarp thick, woody and fibrous.

Seedlings

Cotyledons linear to elongate-elliptic, large, about 50 x 15 mm. First pair of leaves lanceolate, about 6-7 x 1.5 cm, glabrous, margins smooth. At the tenth leaf stage: numerous small pale lenticels occur on the stem. Stems and petioles produce a milky exudate. Seed germination time 17 to 299 days.

Distribution and Ecology

A widespread species in CYP and NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to about 500 m. Usually grows in lowland rain forest. Also occurs in New Guinea.

Natural History & Notes

Fallen fruit eaten by Cassowaries. Cooper & Cooper (1994).

Synonyms

Cerbera odollum auct. non Gaertn., *J. Bot. S.* 32: 61(1923).

RFK Code

445



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Fruit, side view and seed. © W. T. Cooper

Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Seedling, cotyledons and 6 leaves, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage, cotyledons still attached, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



Seedling, epigeal germination. © CSIRO

