

Cucumis umbellatus I.Telford

Family:

Cucurbitaceae

Telford, I.R.H., Sebastian, P., Bruhl, J.J. & Renner, S.S. (2011) *Systematic Botany* 36(2): 384. Type: Australia. Northern Territory: Darwin and Gulf: Kakadu National Park, Ubirr, Apr. 2009, Sebastian 14.

Stem

A slender trailing or climbing annual herb, most parts hispid; stems ribbed, to 3 m long x 2.6 mm diameter. Tendrils simple unbranched, +/- leaf-opposed, to 2 cm long.

Leaves

Leaf blades broadly ovate in outline, shallowly to deeply 3-5-lobed, cordate, about 0.1-4 x 1.4-4.5 cm, petioles 0.8-3.5 cm long. Both the upper and lower leaf blade sparsely hairy with hairs to 1.8 mm long.

Flowers

Inflorescences unisexual. Male flowers: borne in umbels of 12-20 flowers; calyx tube (hypanthium) about 1.6-2.2 mm long, lobes linear 0.5-0.8 mm long; corolla lobes ovate, 2.6-4 mm long; stamens 3, two stamens with 2-locular anthers and one stamen with a unilocular anther; stamens inserted about middle of hypanthium tube. Female flowers: solitary, rarely paired; peduncle 5-25 mm, greatly elongating in fruit; ovary subglobose ca. 0.8-1.2 mm diameter, hispid with retrorse hairs; base of the style surrounded by an annular disk.

Fruit

Fruits subglobose, about 4-7 mm diameter, hairy with tubercle-based hairs, ripening bright orange; peduncle 50-115 mm long; seeds about 1-3 per fruit, each seed 4.5-5 x 2.8-3.4 mm, faces convex, deeply pitted, margin narrow.

Seedlings

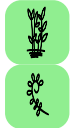
Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in WA and NT. Grows in sandy soils on sandstone, usually on rock outcrops, on talus slopes and along rocky watercourses. Occurs in vine thickets, low open woodland and open shrubland.

RFK Code

2707



Leaf and flowers. © R.L. Barrett



Leaf and fruit. © R.L. Barrett



Immature fruit. © B.S. Wannan



Habit, leaves and flowers. © R.L. Barrett



Habit, leaves and mature fruit. ©

B.S. Wannan



Habit, leaves. © B.S. Wannan



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