**Ficus aculeata** A.Cunn. ex Miq.

**Family:**
**Moraceae**


**Common name:**
Fig, Sandpaper; Fig; Sandpaper Fig

**Stem**
Not a strangling fig. Seldom exceeding 30 cm dbh.

**Leaves**
Petioles and twigs produce a watery, milky exudate. Leaf blades about 9 x 6 cm, sandpapery on both the upper and lower surfaces. Stipules about 0.4-1 cm long, hairy on the outer surface. Leafy twigs sandpapery.

**Flowers**
Tepals glabrous. Male flowers produced around the ostiole. Flowers surrounded by numerous, bristle-like hairs. Bracts at the base of the fig, three. Lateral bracts not present on the outside of the fig body.

**Fruit**
Figs pedunculate, globular, about 7-10 mm diam. Orifice closed by interlocking and inflexed bracts.

**Seedlings**
Cotyledons about 4 x 4 mm, petioles about 1 mm long. First leaves small and hairy, about 10 x 8 mm. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade about 4.8-5.5 x 4-4.5 cm. Leaf blade margin dentate, underside hispid (feels like sandpaper). Stipules narrowly triangular, about 3 mm long. Seed germination time 20 days.

**Distribution and Ecology**
Endemic to Australia, occurs in WA, NT, CYP and NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 450 m. Grows in open forest, gallery forest, monsoon forest and vine forests.

**Natural History & Notes**
Two varieties occur: var. *aculeata* in WA, NT, CYP and NEQ (leaf undersurface densely hairy obscuring the aereoles) and var. *indecora* in WA and NT (leaf undersurface less hairy and aereoles visible).

**RFK Code**
961