

Gardenia scabrella Puttock

Family:

Rubiaceae

Puttock, C.F. (1984) *Austrobaileya* 2(3): 443. Type: COOK DISTRICT: c. 5 km S of Portland Roads, 28 February 1980, Clarkson 2939 (holo: BRI; iso: K, NSW, PERTH, QRS, UNSW).

Common name:

Star Flower

Stem

Usually grows into a small tree not exceeding 30 cm dbh but often flowers and fruits as a shrub.

Leaves

Stipules about 5 mm long, completely encircling the twigs. Young shoots and young stipules often sticky or varnished. Leaf blades about 4.5-12.5 x 1.4-4.6 cm. Hairs present on the upper surface of the leaf blade particularly along the midrib. Domatia are foveoles with hairs at the orifice.

Flowers

Calyx lobes about 6-12 mm long, corolla lobes about 28-40 mm long. Corolla tube cylindrical. Anthers included in the corolla tube. Stigma pale green.

Fruit

Fruits elongate-ellipsoid, about 30-65 x 12-18 mm, hexagonal in transverse section and +/- longitudinally ribbed. Seeds pale brown, about 3 x 2 mm, embryo about 1.3 mm long, radicle longer than the cotyledons. Placental pulp cream.

Seedlings

Cotyledons about 8-9 x 7 mm, petioles about 1-1.5 mm long. First pair of leaves about 10-11 x 5-6 mm, apex acute, base cuneate, margin serrate, petiole hairy, about 0.5-1 mm long. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade obovate, margin smooth but densely ciliate-denticulate with the hairs being tough and scabrous, rough to touch, bases tuberculate. Both the upper and lower surfaces of the leaf blade densely clothed in tubercle-based, scabrous, short hairs. Stipules 3-4 mm long, clothed in whitish hairs. Stem densely clothed in spreading, short, stiff hairs. Seed germination time 140 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to CYP. Altitudinal range from sea level to 100 m. Grows on the margins of dry rain forest and monsoon forest and other similar habitats.

Natural History & Notes

This shrub has now been introduced to horticulture in the tropics. A rather dense rounded shrub with showy white flowers.

RFK Code

892



Leaves and Flowers. © B. Gray



Leaves and fruit. © G. Sankowsky



Habit and flowers. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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