

Gardenia vilhelmii Domin

Family:
Rubiaceae

Domin, K. (1928) *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 1174. Type: Nord-Queensland: savannenwälder zwischen Chillaroo und dem Waleah River (DOMIN II. 1910). Holo: PR.

Stem

Can grow into a small tree but usually flowers and fruits as a shrub. Deciduous for a short period during the dry season.

Leaves

Stipules about 3-5 mm long, encircling the twigs. Stipules, young shoots and terminal buds sticky or resinous. Leaves crowded at the ends of the much branched twigs, leaf blades about 1-3.5 x 0.6-2 cm, petioles about 1-3 cm long. Lateral veins forming loops inside the blade margins. Domatia are inconspicuous tufts of hair covering pits.

Flowers

Flowers solitary, pleasantly perfumed, the odour perhaps resembling peaches (*Prunus persica*). Calyx and corolla (at least in bud) clothed in yellow wax or resin. Calyx tube (hypanthium) cylindrical, about 1-3 mm long, lobes or free parts about 1 mm long. Corolla tube expanded towards the apex, tube about 6-17 mm long, lobes about 5-10 mm long, the whole flower about 20 mm diam. Anthers about 4-8 mm long, slightly exceeding the corolla tube. Male flower with a well developed ovary (containing numerous small ovule-like ovulodes) terminating in a large white or cream style and stigma which only just exceeds the corolla tube. Female flowers with three stigmas, located along the upper style which protrudes about 5-7 mm beyond the corolla tube.

Fruit

Fruits globular, about 9-16 mm diam. Seeds +/- patelliform, about 2-3.2 mm diam. Cotyledons about twice as wide as the radicle.

Seedlings

Cotyledons about 7-11 x 6-8 mm. First pair of true leaves hairy on the upper surface, margins denticulate to ciliate. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade margin undulate and clothed in tooth-like hairs. Upper surface slightly hispid. Stipules broadly triangular and sheathing the stem.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to NEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 600 m. Usually grows in open eucalypt forest but also occurs in monsoon forest and vine thickets.

Natural History & Notes

This plant used medicinally by Aborigines, used for toothache. Cribb (1981).

Synonyms

Gardenia edulis F. Muell., *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 1: 54(1858), Type: Queensland, Gilbert River, Sept - Oct. 1856, F. Mueller s.n.; lecto: K; iso: MEL. Fide Puttock (1988).

RFK Code

3165



Leaves and male flowers (?). © CSIRO



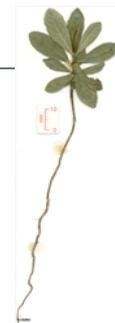
Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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