

Hyptis capitata Jacq.

Family:

Lamiaceae

Jacquin, N.J. von (1787) *Collectanea* 1: 102. Type: In insula San Domingo sponte crescit.

Common name:

Knobweed; Hyptis

Stem

Flowers and fruits as a shrub about 1-2 m tall.

Leaves

Leaf bearing twigs +/- 4-angled, leaves and stems emit a strong odour when crushed. Leaf blades about 6-14 x 1.5-6 cm with numerous pale glands visible on the underside. Upper surface of the leaf blade clothed in quite stout septate hairs. Hairs on the underside of the leaf blade much more slender than those on the upper surface.

Flowers

Flowers in dense globular heads. Calyx about 3-4 mm long, pubescent on the outer surface, inner surface glabrous except at the base. Corolla about 5-6 mm long. Anthers pink, red-brown or purple with a yellow gland on the back. Ovary 4-lobed, glabrous, style inserted in the centre of the lobes.

Fruit

Calyx pubescent, persistent, enclosing the nutlets. Nutlets +/- ovoid, about 1.2-2 mm long with a bilobed scar at the base. Nutlets not swelling or becoming transformed in any way when boiled in water.

Seedlings

Cotyledons about 4-6 x 7 mm, petiole as long as or longer than the cotyledon blade. Stem above the cotyledons +/- square in transverse section, hypocotyl terete. Stout septate hairs present on the upper surface of the first pair of leaves, leaf margins toothed. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade about 9-10 x 4-5 cm with stout septate hairs present on the upper surface. Stem 4-angled, corners pubescent, more so than the rest of the stem. Seed germination time 7 to 26 days.

Distribution and Ecology

An introduced species originally from tropical America but now pantropic, which has become naturalised in NT, CYP, NEQ and CEQ. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 750 m. Usually found on degraded farmland and along roads and clearings in lowland rain forest.

Natural History & Notes

This species may have medicinal properties.

RFK Code

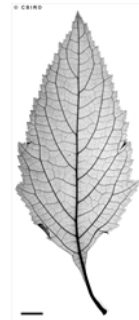
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Flowers. © CSIRO



Habit, fruit [not vouchered]. CC-BY J.L. Dowe



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



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