

# *Sicyos australis* Endl.

## Family:

Cucurbitaceae

Endlicher, S.L. (1833) *Prodromus Florae Norfolkicae* : 67. Type: Norfolk Island, F. Bauer; syn: W.

## Common name:

Cucumber, Star; Cucumber, Angle; Star Cucumber; Angle Cucumber

## Stem

Stems annual, up to 10 m long, 5 mm diam., sparsely hairy; tendrils 3-5-branched.

## Leaves

Leaves simple, with 5 or 7 shallow to deep lobes; leaf blades ovate or broadly ovate in outline, about 3.5-19.5 x 420 cm; margins dentate; petioles about 1-6.5 cm long; cordate with broad basal sinus. Both the upper and lower leaf blade surfaces clothed in glandular hairs.

## Flowers

Male and female flowers on same plant. Male flowers: in racemes of 8-19 flowers; peduncle 1.5-12.5 cm long; flowers pedicel 3-11 mm long; calyx tube (hypanthium) broadly campanulate, ca. 2.4-2.7 mm diameter; calyx lobes linear 0.4-0.7 mm long; corolla 4.5-7.8 mm diameter, mostly glabrous out, white, 5-lobed, lobes triangular and 2-2.6 mm long; staminal column 1.5-1.8 mm long. Female flowers: in a 8-11-flowered head; peduncle 8-23(-33) mm long; flowers subsessile; ovary ovate, ca. 3 mm long, spiny; calyx tube (hypanthium) broadly campanulate above constriction; calyx lobes linear, 0.4-0.7 mm long; corolla 2.5-3.5 mm diameter, mostly glabrous out, white, 5-lobed, lobes triangular-ovate ca. 1.6 mm long; style 1.4 mm long; stigma 2-lobed, lobes recurved.

## Fruit

Fruit ovate rarely fusiform, 6.4-9.5 mm long x 2.8-4 mm diameter, apically attenuate, surface more or less glabrous or scabrous with short hairs, with prickles; prickles dense, 1.6-3.6 mm long, tips recurved. Seeds ellipsoidal, 4-5.5 x 2.8-3.4 mm, brown.

## Seedlings

Features not available.

## Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as Tasmania. Altitudinal range in northern Australia not known but one specimen was collected at 840 m. Grows in vine thicket and monsoon forest in northern Australia.

## Synonyms

*Sicyos angulatus* L., *Species Plantarum* 2: 1013(1753), Type: Habitat in Canada, Mexico. *Sicyos fretensis* Hook.f., *Hooker's London Journal of Botany* 6: 473(1847), Type: Sisters Island, E. Coast of Flinders Island (Bass Straits); Gunn.

## RFK Code

2662



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