Solanum pseudocapsicum L.

**Family:**
Solanaceae


**Common name:**
False Capsicum; Nightshade; Jerusalem Cherry; Cherry, Madeira Winter; Cherry, Jerusalem; Capsicum, False; Madeira Winter Cherry

**Stem**
Usually flowers and fruits as a shrub about 1 m tall but also flowers when smaller.

**Leaves**
Plant unarmed, twigs, petioles and leaves glabrous. Leaf blades about 4-10 x 1-3 cm, petioles about 0.2-1.5 cm long. Lateral veins forming loops inside the blade margin.

**Flowers**
Inflorescence short, 1-several-flowered. Pedicels about 1 cm long. Calyx about 4-5 mm long, lobes about 2-3 mm long. Corolla about 10-15 mm diam. Anthers orange. Pollen white. Ovary and style pale green, glabrous, ovules numerous.

**Fruit**
Fruits globular, about 10-15 mm diam., calyx lobes persistent at the base. Seeds about 3-4 mm long. Embryo +/- coiled, cotyledons no wider than the radicle.

**Seedlings**
Cotyledons +/- linear, about 12-15 x 4-5 mm. First pair of leaves alternate, almost rhomboid, petioles quite long. At the tenth leaf stage: stem clothed in short, pale, 2-branched hairs with each branch recurved. Petiole and leaf blade +/- glabrous. Leaves emit an obnoxious odour when crushed. Petiole winged or the leaf blade decurrent. Seed germination time 10 days.

**Distribution and Ecology**
An introduced species of uncertain origin, now naturalised in NEQ and various places to the south including south-eastern Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and southern Western Australia. Altitudinal range in NEQ from 650-800 m. Usually grows on farmland but also found on rain forest margins and in disturbed areas in rain forest.

**Natural History & Notes**
Field evidence of toxicity is rather vague and contradictory. Everist (1974).


Poisonous to pets.

**RFK Code**
3221