

Ziziphus mauritiana Lam.

Family:

Rhamnaceae

Lamarck, J.B.A.P. Monnet de (1797) *Encyclopedique Methodique, Botanique* 3: 319. Type: .. Ile de France ..

Common name:

Common Jujube; Apple, Chinee; Indian Jujube; Chinee Apple; Jujube, Common; Jujube, Indian

Stem

Occasionally grows into a small tree but usually flowers and fruits as a shrub.

Leaves

Leaf blades about 40-55 x 30-40 mm, petioles about 0.7-0.8 cm long. Upper surface of the leaf blade +/- glabrous but underside densely clothed in pale matted hairs. Stipules spiny, about 0.5-3 mm long, often one spine straight and the other recurved.

Flowers

Inflorescence short, not exceeding the leaves, scarcely exceeding the petioles. Pedicel and calyx densely pubescent, calyx lobes about 1.5-2 mm long, petals spoon-shaped, about 0.5-0.75 mm long, almost enclosing the anthers until anthesis. Ovary +/- immersed in a fleshy disk.

Fruit

Fruits globular, about 15-20 mm diam. Seeds one or two, enclosed in a hard endocarp about 1 mm thick. Outer surface of the endocarp rugose.

Seedlings

Cotyledons +/- orbicular or obcordate, about 15-16 mm diam., petioles about 8-15 mm long. First pair of leaves lanceolate, +/- three-veined, margins toothed. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade margins toothed with about 25 teeth on each side, 3-veined, underside clothed in fine, short, scattered hairs. Stipules spiny, about 3-10 mm long, one stipule of each pair usually longer than the other. Seed germination time 32 to 103 days.

Distribution and Ecology

An introduced species originally from tropical Asia now naturalised in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as south-eastern Queensland. Altitudinal range in northern Australia from near sea level to 400 m. Often grows in open forest particularly in disturbed areas around old settlements but also found in monsoon forest and vine thickets.

Natural History & Notes

This species may have medicinal properties.

Although primarily a food plant this species has been used extensively also in medicine. Fruits are regarded as tonic, and are an ingredient of a medicine used in chest complaints. Cribb (1981).

RFK Code

1094



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



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