

Capparis lucida (DC.) R.Br. ex Benth.

Family:

Capparaceae

Bentham, G. (1863) *Flora Australiensis* 1: 96.

Common name:

Coast Caper

Stem

Frequently grows into a small tree, sometimes somewhat scandent but usually flowers and fruits as a shrub 3-4 m tall.

Leaves

Midrib and lateral veins raised on the upper surface of the leaf blade. Petioles and twigs pubescent. Lateral veins forming loops inside the blade margin. Leaf blades about 3-10 x 2-5 cm.

Flowers

Sepals about 9-13 mm long. Outer pair of sepals fused to form a calyptra which splits irregularly. Inner pair of sepals free from one another. Petals about 15-20 mm long. Stamens about 50-85. Gynophore about 25-65 mm long, pubescent at the base.

Fruit

Fruit globose, about 2.5-5 cm diam., pericarp smooth. Seeds numerous, each about 6 mm long. Cotyledons folded and rolled and located +/- in the centre of the spiralled embryo.

Seedlings

Cotyledons lanceolate, about 22-30 x 11-15 mm, apex acute, base obtuse. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves ovate, stipules straight and spiny, about 4-7 mm long. Stem hairs translucent to white, small and hooked at the apex. Seed germination time 19 to 32 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in WA, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards to south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales. Usually found at low elevations close to sea level. Grows in beach forest but also found in vine thickets and monsoon forest. Also occurs in Malesia.

Synonyms

Capparis lucida* (DC.) Benth. f. *lucida, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 688(1928). ***Thilachium lucidum* DC.**, *Prodromus* 1: 254(1824), Type: Queensland, In insula Booby inter Nov.-Holl. et Nov.-Guineam. *Capparis lucida* Banks! herb. (v.s. in h. Banks.) Holo: BM?. ***Busbeckea corymbiflora* F. Muell.**, *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 1: 163(1858), Type: Qld. In insula Lord Howicks Group. [given by M.Jacobs, *Blumea* 12 (1965) 520 as *F. von Mueller* s.n. (K, MEL). *F. Mueller* probably not collector.

RFK Code

3044



Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and flower [not vouchered]. © R.L. Jago



Fruit, side view, cross section and seeds. © W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

