PLANT FACT SHEET

Capparis zeylanica L.

GENUS *Capparis* **FAMILY** Capparaceae

COMMON NAMES Ceylon caper, Indian caper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers, Seeds

The ripe fruit are made into pickles. The fruit are bitter. They are soaked overnight and boiled in water. Young fruit are cooked and eaten as a vegetable.
The flowers are eaten as a vegetable. They are somewhat bitter.
The seeds of the ripe fruit are eaten roasted.

DESCRIPTION

A climber or shrub. It grows 2-5 m tall. The small branches zigzag. There are thorns that curve backwards. These are 3-6 mm long. A vine with alternate leaves. The leaves are hairy, with pointed tips and rounded base. The flowers are fairly large and pink turning to purple. The fruit are berries that are red then black. They can be 5 cm long by 4 cm wide. They have a woody skin. There are many seeds. These are in a fleshy pulp.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows near the foothills of the Himalayas up to 800 m altitude. It grows in dry deciduous forest. In the Philippines reported only from Luzon and Mindanao.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be raised from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In China it flowers in February to April and fruits in July.

NOTES

There are about 250 Capparis species. There are about 50 Capparis species in tropical America.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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