PLANT FACT SHEET

Morisonia flexuosa L.

GENUS *Morisonia* **FAMILY** Capparaceae

COMMON NAMES Bay-leaved caper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flower buds - flavouring, Leaves - flavouring

The flower buds are used like caper.

DESCRIPTION

A woody shrub that can be scrambling. It is much branched from the base. Stem can be 2-10 m long. The branches hang down. They are smooth and light brown and 20 cm across at the base. The leaves are alternate and 4-10 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. They are narrowly oblong. The edges curl back. They are yellowish green on the top surface and pale green underneath. The flowers come out at night and have a scent. They are in clusters at the ends of branches. They are yellowish green. The fruit are cylinder shaped fleshy follicles. They are 6-8 cm long. The seeds are 1 cm long with a white fleshy covering.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in coastal forests and on limestone. It suits the wet tropics.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Central America it flowers March to October and fruits August and September.

NOTES

There are about 250 Capparis species. There are about 50 Capparis species in tropical America. Also as Capparidaceae.

REFERENCES

Bircher, A. G. & Bircher, W. H., 2000, Encyclopedia of Fruit Trees and Edible Flowering Plants in Egypt and the Subtropics. AUC Press. p 81 (As Capparis saligna)

Ekman Herbarium records Haiti (As Capparis flexuosa)

Gomes, L.C.A., et al, 2023, Patterns of use of wild food plants by Brazilian local communities: systematic review and meta-analysis. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine. 19:47 p 7 (As Cynophalla flexuosa)

Grandtner, M. M., 2008, World Dictionary of Trees. Wood and Forest Science Department. Laval University, Quebec, Qc Canada. (Internet database http://www.WDT.QC.ca) (As Capparis flexuosa)

Grandtner, M. M. & Chevrette, J., 2013, Dictionary of Trees, Volume 2: South America: Nomenclature, Taxonomy and Ecology. Academic Press p 97 (As Capparis flexuosa)

Nascimento, V. T. D., et al, 2013, Knowledge and Use of Wild Food Plants in Areas of Dry Seasonal Forests in Brazil. Ecology of Food and Nutrition, 52:317–343 (As Capparis flexuosa)

Plants of Haiti Smithsonian Institute http://botany.si.edu (As Capparis flexuosa)

Scarpa, G. F., 2009, Wild food plants used by the indigenous peoples of South American Gran Chaco: A general synopsis and intercultural comparison. Journal of Applied Botany and Food Quality 83:90-101 (As Capparis flexuosa)

www.theplantlist.org (As Capparis flexuosa)

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/5ed452a4-ce4e-40a4-94e4-7a3884e2c396