PLANT FACT SHEET

Capparis mitchellii (Lindley ex F. Muell.) Lindl.

GENUS *Capparis* **FAMILY** Capparaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild desert orange, Wild caper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit can be cooked and eaten with chicken, lamb and rice.

DESCRIPTION

A tall shrub or small spreading tree. It grows 3-10 m high. The branches have spines. The leaves are oval and rigid and leathery. They are 2-6 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. The flowers are white or cream. They are about 5 cm across. They are on stalks 3-4 cm long. They occur singly in the axils of leaves or in small clumps near the ends of branches. The fruit are berries. They are 4-7 cm across. They are round and purple or dull orange. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

It grows in tropical and subtropical places. It grows in inland areas in Australia. They can grow on most soils. They will not tolerate poor drainage. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 9-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit need to be very ripe.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Bindon, P., 1996, Useful Bush Plants. Western Australian Museum. p 70

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

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 211

Bonney, N., 1997, Economic Native Trees and Shrubs for South Australia. Greening Australia (SA) inc. Campbelltown SA 5074 p 55

Bonney, N., 2012, Edible Wild Native Plants for Southern Australia. p 110

Boomsma, C.D., 1972, Native Tree of South Australia. Woods & Forests Department South Australia, Bulletin No.19. p 64

Brown, D., 2002, The Royal Horticultural Society encyclopedia of Herbs and their uses. DK Books. p 153

Cancilla, D., 2018, Ethnobotanical and Ethnozoological Values Desktop Assessment - Eliwana Project. p 10

Cherikoff V. & Isaacs, J., The Bush Food Handbook. How to gather, grow, process and cook Australian Wild Foods. Ti Tree Press, Australia p 189

Cronin, L., 1989, The Concise Australian Flora. Reed. p 135

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 326

Doran, J.C., & Turnbull, J.W. (Eds), 1997, Australian Trees and Shrubs: species for land rehabilitation and farm plantings in the tropics. ACIAR Monograph No 24. p 257

Eddie, C., 2007, Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs of Eastern Queensland Oil and Gas Fields. Santos p 112

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1982, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 2. Lothian. p 459

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 180

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 71

Flora of Australia, Volume 8, Lecythidales to Batales, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra (1982) p 217

Green, J., (Ed.), 2003, Anmatyerr Plant Stories. AID Press. p 2

Hall, N. et al, 1972, The Use of Trees and Shrubs in the Dry Country of Australia, AGPS, Canberra. p 357

Hardwick, G., 2001, Economically Useful Plants for Northern Australia: Master Species List. Crusader eBooks.

Hiddins, L., 1999, Explore Wild Australia with the Bush Tucker Man. Penguin Books/ABC Books. p 168

Holliday, I., 1989, A Field Guide to Australian Trees. Hamlyn. p 100

Hunter, J. T. et al, Budjiti traditional use of plants on Naree Station. p 3

Hunter, J., 2012, Vegetation and Floristics of Gilwarny and Wingadee Nature Reserves. A Report to the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service p 112

Hunter, J.T., 2017, Is there a relationship between contemporary high Aboriginal plant resource locations and mapped vegetation communities? Cunninghamia 17:27-34. The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. ISSN 2200 - 405X

INFOODS:FAO/INFOODS Databases

King, M. & Horsfall, J., 2023, Kimberley Bush Food. Edible Plants of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. UWAP. p 330

Latz, P.K., 1996, Bushfires and Bushtucker: Aboriginal plant use in Central Australia. IAD Press Alice Springs p 139

Latz, P & Wightman, G., 1995, Desert Bush Tucker Identikit. Common Native Food Plants of Central Australia. Parks & Wild Commission Northern territory. p 14

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 47

Lord, E.E., & Willis, J.H., 1999, Shrubs and Trees for Australian gardens. Lothian. p 13

Low, T., 1991, Wild Food Plants of Australia. Australian Nature FieldGuide, Angus & Robertson. p 173

Low, T., 1992, Bush Tucker. Australia's Wild Food Harvest. Angus & Robertson. p 69

McKerney, M. & White, H., 2011, Bush Tucker, Boomerangs & Bandages. Border River-Gwyder Catchment Management Authority p 95

Miller, J. B., James K. W. and Maggiore P.M.A., 1993, Tables of Composition of Australian Aboriginal Foods. Aboriginal Studies Press. Canberra

T. Mitch., Three exped. Australia 1:311. 1838

Miers, G., 2004, Cultivation and sustainable wild harvest of Bushfoods by Aboriginal Communities in Central Australia. RIRDC report W03/124 p 19

Morley, B.D., & Toelken, H.R., (Eds), 1983, Flowering Plants in Australia. Rigby. p 102

O'Connell, J.F., et al, 1983, Traditional and Modern Plant Use Among the Alyawara of Central Australia. Economic Botany. Vol. 37 p 104

Paczkowska, G. & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 194

Robins, J., 1996, Wild Lime. Cooking from the Bush food garden. Allen & Unwin p 25

Salem, L., Thompson, E., and Elvin, H. L., Bush Tucker in Kidney Failure and Diabetes. AMGEN

Spearrit, G., 2016, Plants of Irongate Conservation Park. Amaroo Environmental Education Centre.

Steenbeeke, Greg as part of the Plants Directory project. List of plant species from northern NSW that may be used as food plants p 15

Townsend, K., 1994, Across the Top. Gardening with Australian Plants in the tropics. Society for Growing Australian Plants, Townsville Branch Inc. p 121

Urban, A., 1990, Wildflowers of Inland Australia. Portside editions. p 58

Full reference list (2 more) at https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/83c4ed4d-c760-403b-b516-6ac419681559

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/83c4ed4d-c760-403b-b516-6ac419681559