PLANT FACT SHEET

Capparis micracantha DC

GENUS *Capparis* **FAMILY** Capparaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw when ripe.
They are also used like capers.

DESCRIPTION

A vine or half erect shrub with drooping branches. It grows 4-5 m tall. It is thorny. The leaves are alternate, leathery and shiny. Both the tips and base of the leaves are usually rounded. Flowers occur on the stem above the leaf axils. They are on trailing branches. The flower petals are white with lower ones yellow or reddish. There are 20 long stamens. The fruit are oval and 3 or 4 cm long. They are smooth and bright red when ripe. The fruit is on a long stalk.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They occur in areas of shrubs and secondary forest at low and medium altitudes from northern Luzon to southern Mindanao in the Philippines.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In southern China plants flower in March to May and fruit in July and August.

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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