

Capparis arborea
(Capparaceae)

- Common name:** Brush caper berry.
- Localities:** Brisbane River Bank, Grandview Rd, Kholo Creek, Moggill State Forest, Priors Pocket, Upper Brookfield.
- Growth form:** Attractive shrub or small tree with a dense, rounded canopy.
- Foliage:** Leaves simple, tough, up to 14 cm long, 6 cm wide, and with short, paired spines at the nodes in juvenile foliage, but not mature foliage.
- Flowers and fruit:** Flowers are large and showy, fragrant, white, solitary in leaf axils. However, they only last for a few hours, from evening to morning. The fruit is round and green and contains many seeds.
- Habitat:** Dry rainforest.
- Propagation and Management:** May be propagated from fresh seed or cuttings. Brush caper berry is very hardy, but prefers an acid soil and full sun.
- General:** Very prickly and vine-like in young growth, initially requiring some support and can make a useful hedge. This species is the host plant to the Caper White Butterfly, and foliage can be stripped by the larvae, but the plants recover. The fruit is eaten by possums, fruit bats and pigeons, and was also eaten by Aborigines. The specimen illustrated is an unnamed but closely related local species.



Capparis sp.