

Capparis tomentosa (c) Nevit Dilmen



Capparis tomentosa (c) Franz Xaver

Capparis tomentosa

Family: Capparaceae

ENG: African Caper
GIR: Mtsodzagunga, Mugwada paka
KWS: Mbada paka

Thorny shrub to 3m or climber to 10m. Makes a good defensive hedge. Red fruit to 2cm across.

Fruit is eaten by humans and monkeys but leaves are poisonous to livestock. Flowers attract bees.

Roots, leaves and bark are used in traditional medicine.

In other parts of Africa, Capparis is recorded as a larval food plant for Appias, Belenois, Colotis, Dixeia, Eronia, Leptosia, Nepheronia, and Pinacopteryx.

There is no evidence from the coast that this is a larval food plant, but Capparis is regularly visited by butterflies.

Available Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery



(c) NoahElhardt