

CURRENT BUSH

Alternative name: Kunkerberry, Native Scrub Lime

FAMILY: APOCYNACEAE

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Carissa ovata*



Form and size:

Shrub to 2m or climber
Spreading to erect shrub with many branches, sometimes described as a scrambling climber
Slow growing, hardy in most conditions

Leaves:

Simple, opposite broad ovate shape 0.5-4cm
Glossy green and usually smooth
Can extrude milky latex

Bark:

Dark grey
Milky sap extrudes if bark is wounded

Flowers:

Small fragrant white compact cyme (convex flower cluster)

Flowering Period:

Any month

Fruit:

Purplish black ovoid berries, 1- 1.5cm long
Red flesh
Usually one seed
Any month



Ecological notes:

Fruit eaten by the Satin, Spotted and Regent Bowerbirds. Larval food plant for the Common Crow Butterfly and moths such as a Hawk Moth.

Cultivation:

Grow from fresh seed, remove flesh from seeds prior to sowing.
Can also be cultivated from cuttings.

Distribution:

Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, New South Wales
Open forests and littoral rainforests as a shrub and monsoon forest as a vine.



OTHER INFORMATION

Disclaimer: Rotary Club of Capricorn Coast can not take any responsibility for any adverse effects from the use of plants. Always seek advice from a professional before ingesting any part of a plant or using a plant medicinally.

QUIZ TIME

1. What sort of plant is this?
 - a. Tree
 - b. Climber

2. How many seeds do the berries have?
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4

3. List the states Currant Bush can be found.

ANSWERS:

1. B
2. A
3. Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, New South Wales

REFERENCES

CSIRO. (2020). *Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants*.

Melzer, R., & Plumb, J. (2011). *Plants of Capricornia*. Belgamba.

Williams, P., Kirkpatrick, S., Griffith University. Centre for Coastal Management, & Gold Coast (Qld.). Council. (2009). *Coastal Plant Pocket Guide*. Griffith Centre for Coastal Management.

Image 1

Marathon, M. (2011). *Carissa ovata* flower & foliage

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carissa_ovata_flowers_and_foliage.jpg

Image 2

Aardvark, E. (2008). *Carissa ovata* thicket.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Carissa_ovata_thicket.jpg

Image 3

Aardvark, E. (2008). *Carissa ovata* fruit.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carissa_ovata_fruit.jpg

Image 4

The Australasian Virtual Herbarium. (2021). *Cassa ovata*.

https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?taxa=Carissa+ovata#tab_mapView