

Cluster Fig



FAMILY: Moraceae

HABIT: A deciduous, large spreading tree with a stout buttressed trunk. All parts exude milky sap that turns brown.

LEAVES: Simple, alternate, ovate to lanceolate, 6-20x 4-8cm, are slightly hairy soon becoming hairless. The leaf stalk is 2-7cm long; persistent stipules 0.5-2cm.

FLOWER/FRUITS: The figs, borne in clusters on the trunk and main branches are globular or pear shaped, up to 4cm in diameter and red at maturity.

PROPAGATION: Ripe fruit is scraped out and the skin discarded. Mix the remaining pulp with sand and spread on surface of soil medium.

LOCAL HABITAT: Common near watercourses, riparian, dry rainforest including littoral communities.

DISTRIBUTION: From Cape York to as far south as Gympie, northern Western Australia, and Northern Territory and overseas.



GENERAL: Aborigines used various parts for medicinal purposes and the trunks to make dugout canoes. Early settlers used the fruits to make jelly. Fruits are eaten by fruit eating birds and bats. Larval food plant for a butterfly and moth species.

REFERENCES: Melzer & Plumb, 2007 *Plants of Capricornia*.