

Capparis sepiaria, Linn.

Capparis sepiaria, Linn. ; Miq., Fl. Ind. Bat., i. 2, p. 101 ; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. Ind., i. p. 177.

TIMOR LAUT ; WETTER.—Throughout India ; from the Punjab and Sindh to Birma, Pegu, the Carnatic, and Ceylon. Also in Java, the Philippines, and Timor.

Capparis spinosa, Linn. var.

Capparis spinosa, Linn., var. (*Capparis mariana*, Jacq., Hort. Schönbr., i. t. 109 ; Miq., Fl. Ind. Bat., i. 2, p. 100).

LETTI.—Timor and the Marianne Islands.

There is little doubt that this is an unarmed form of *Capparis spinosa*, Linn., and hardly, if at all, different from the *Capparis rupestris*, Sibth. (Flora Græca, t. 487.) Indeed, in Hooker's Flora of British India, i. p. 173, it is, judging from the distribution given of that species, regarded as a form of it, as is also the *Capparis sandwichiana*, DC. Hooker and Arnott (Botany of Beechey's Voyage, 1841, p. 59) do not actually reduce either the last named or *Capparis mariana* to *Capparis spinosa*, but they say : "This appears scarcely different from *Capparis spinosa* ; nor does the *Capparis mariana* seem to us deserving of the rank of a species." On the other hand, Gray, in Wilkes's United States Exploring Expedition, Botany, i. p. 69, treats *Capparis sandwichiana* as an independent species, stating that it "is distinguished from *Capparis spinosa*, which is sometimes unarmed, by its longer petioles, only one-third shorter than the blade, and its elongated club-shaped fruit, two and a half inches long by half an inch thick, raised on a stipe three inches long." But the admitted forms of *Capparis spinosa* differ much more from each other than some of them do from the Molucca and Pacific Island form. *Capparis sandwichiana* is figured in Gaudichaud's Voyage de la Bonite, t. 55, the letterpress of which was never published. *Capparis mariana* is figured in Blanco's Flora de Filipinas, illustrated edition, ii. (1878), p. 201, t. 179, and it is there stated that it was cultivated in the Philippines, having been originally brought from the Marianne Islands. The Herbarium specimens of *Capparis sandwichiana* and *Capparis mariana* are indistinguishable, and the figure of the fruit in Blanco agrees with Gray's description, being even a little more than two and a half inches long. But the characters by which Gray thought to distinguish *Capparis sandwichiana* from *Capparis spinosa* are found to be insufficient on comparing a numerous series of specimens ; those relating to the fruit equally with those relating to the leaves. In the Sandwich Islands it appears to be common now in some parts, especially on the sea-shore, and Menzies first collected it on Vancouver's voyage in 1792 ; and the naturalists of Beechey's voyage collected it in one of the Society Islands in 1826. Jacquin described and figured *Capparis mariana* from a plant cultivated at Schönbrunn in 1797, which he states was sent thither from the Mauritius, though a native of the Marianne Islands. This is confirmed in a measure by Bojer's Hortus Mauritianus. Allan