

# *Cucumis sagittatus*

## Goats apple

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Family: Cucurbitaceae



Collection Number: 93

**Description:** An annual prostrate creeper. The leaves are relatively large and simple with palmate venation. They are cordate, with entire / sinuate margins, very rough with small prickles. There are also small prickles on the stems, as well as tendrils. Flowers are white/cream and trumpet-shaped. The fruits are like very small melons, dark green with lighter stripes when ripe, yellowing with age. They are covered in fine hairs which brush off quite easily.

**Habitat:** This plant grows on gentle slopes and level areas where there is coarse sand and rocks. It is not very common on the reserve but has been seen close to the picnic spot at Draaihoek, and at the base of Gorrasis mountains.



Only 1 specimen,  
Sent to NBRI

NBRI - Collection Data Form

Collectors No. 93 Date 20.06.2001  
Collectors Louise Clapham GPS  
Locality (please describe properly, not just grid/gps) Sandster riverbed, behind Garrahis mts. Grid 2515 Bd  
Aspect Slope gentle Exposure full sun Photo no's  
Voucher for

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT Please give as much information as possible

Species Cucumber family Cucumis sagittatus Perennial/Annual

Habit (eg: dwarf shrub) Creeping herb

Height few cm Occurrence (eg: common) Uncommon

Flower/Inflorescence (colour, shape, size, smell, texture)

Too late to find flowers, which are fresh, but old ones appear to have been white/cream trumpet shaped.

Leaves (simple/compound, margin, shape, colour, texture, stipules)

Simple, large, cordate, margin sinuate/entire.  
Palmate venation.

Very rough with small prickles

Stems and bark (colour, texture, habit - eg: erect stem with yellow peeling papery bark - presence or absence and smell of sap or latex - eg: milky latex with unpleasant smell)

Stems radiating across the ground from a central point. Prickles on stems. Terrestrial.

Fruits and seed (presence/absence, shape, colour, edibility and taste if edible, single or clustered, maturity)

A & small marrow/melon. Dark green with lighter stripes, yellowing with age. Very heavy. Flows break off the fruit very easily.

Roots/Underground organs (shape, texture, colour, size)

Other (eg. uses, ecology)

Indigenous names and languages

Habitat		Substrate	Soil type	Moisture	Biotic effect
cliff face	riverbank/ streambank	soil	sand ✓		road/railside
mountain/hill peak	seepage area	stony/rocky soil	sandy loam	well-drained ✓	cultivated land
mountain/hill slope (inc. base) ✓	waterfall/ rapids	gravel	loam	seasonally waterlogged	abandoned land
ravine/kloof/ gorge	littoral	termite mound	humus- rich	permanently waterlogged	heavily grazed
talus/scree	unknown	bare rock	loamy clay	moist/damp	garden
dune slope		water	clay	freestanding water	plantation
dune crest	Vegetation	roots	calcrete	running water	recently burnt
interdunal street	desert	other	black turf	mist/fog	disturbed - other
ridge	shrubland ✓ open/closed		salt/brack		other
rocky outcrop ✓	woodland open/closed		gravel		
plain	thornbush savanna		dolomite		
plateau	forest		granite		
valley	grassland		lime		
donga/ditch/gulley	karoo		mica schist		
depression/pan			quartzite		
dam			other		
dry bed of river/stream					
floodplain					
estuary/lagoon					
marsh/swamp/ wetland					
river/stream					

FOR HERBARIUM USE ONLY

Date.....

Det. By..... date..... Accession.....

flowering code	fruiting code	voucher	duplicates
mature		genebank	
immature		ethnobotanic	
remains			
absent			