

Flora of the Darwin Region

VOLUME 1

P.S. Short & I.D. Cowie (eds)



CABOMBACEAE

I.D. Cowie

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Territory**

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Cowie, I.D., Northern Territory Department
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Illustrations: M. Osterkamp
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Photographic Editor: B.M. Stuckey
Authors contributing to this publication:
D.E. Albrecht
Northern Territory Herbarium, Department of
Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and
Sport, P.O. Box 1120, Alice Springs, N.T. 0871,
Australia
R.M. Barker
State Herbarium of South Australia, Plant
Biodiversity Centre, P.O. Box 2732, Kent Town,
S.A. 5071, Australia
I.D. Cowie; B. Crase*; D.J. Dixon*; C.R. Dunlop*;
R.K. Harwood*; R.A. Kerrigan*; G.J. Leach*;
C. Mangion*; P.S. Short; G.M. Wightman*
Northern Territory Herbarium, Department of
Natural Resources, Environment the Arts and

Sport, P.O. Box 496, Palmerston, N.T. 0831,
Australia
L.A. Craven
Australian National Herbarium, Centre for
Plant, Biodiversity Research, G.P.O. Box 1600,
Canberra, A.C.T. 2601, Australia
L.L. Forman† (deceased)
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond,
Surrey, TW9 3AB, UK
B. Jackes
James Cook University Herbarium, School of
Marine and Tropical Biology, James Cook
University, Townsville, Qld 4811, Australia
L. Jessup
Queensland Herbarium Mt Coot-tha Road,
Toowong, Qld 4066, Australia
J. Palmer
Australian National Herbarium, G.P.O. Box
1600, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601, Australia

*Former employee NT Herbarium

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CABOMBACEAE

I.D. Cowie

Perennial aquatic *herbs*, rooted on substrate. *Stems* elongate, leafy. *Leaves* dimorphic, alternate, opposite or whorled, floating or submerged; floating leaves alternate, peltate, circular or rhombic to elliptic; submerged leaves, when present, opposite or whorled, deeply dissected, initially at least trichotomously then dichotomously. *Flowers* bisexual, axillary, solitary, hypogynous. *Perianth segments* 6–8; petals 3 or 4, white, yellow or dark maroon. *Stamens* 3–6 or 12–18; anthers tetrasporangiate and dithecal; staminodes absent. *Gynoecium* of 1–18 free carpels; ovules 1–3, anatropous; style short, stigmas terminal or decurrent. *Fruit* of coriaceous, indehiscent follicles.

A family of two genera and about eight species, found in tropical to warm temperate areas. One naturalised species is found in the N.T.

Sometimes recognised as a member of the Nymphaeaceae but differs in free carpels and has distinctive vessels. Yoo *et al.* (2005) discussed relationships and the phylogeny of the family.

Taxonomic reference: Yoo *et al.* (2005).

CABOMBA Aubl.

Submerged attached perennials. *Submerged leaves* opposite or whorled, dissected, sessile or shortly petiolate. *Floating leaves* few or absent, blade rhombic to elliptic, entire, peltate. *Flowers* floating, solitary, axillary. *Perianth* 6-lobed, free, in 2 whorls. *Stamens* 3–6. *Carpels* often 2–4.

A genus of about seven species native to the Americas.

**C. caroliniana* A. Gray

Herb, stems to *c.* 1.5 m long, red. *Submerged leaves* on rachis 6–11 mm long, orbicular in outline, *c.* 50 mm diam, deeply dissected, initially divided palmately into *c.* 5 rays, each ray subsequently with 3–7 dichotomous divisions, ultimate segments terete; *floating leaves* 3–4 at apex of each stem, on petioles 7–26 mm long; blades narrowly rhombic, 17–30 mm long. *Tepals* oblong-ovovate, 8–11 mm long; outer tepals white, green at base; inner tepals shortly clawed, white, bright yellow and cordate-auriculate at base. *Stamens* 6, *c.* 2.5 mm long; anthers *c.* 1.7 mm long. *Carpels* 2 or 3; usually 3-ovulate; stigmas capitate. *Fruiting peduncles* curved. *Flowering* Mar.–May. *Fruiting* not recorded.

Fig. 1 (Cowie 7459); Pl. 1 (unvouchered).

Native to America, naturalised in parts of Qld, N.S.W. and the N.T. Recorded from Marlow's Lagoon near Palmerston and Darwin River. The species is used as an aquarium plant and it is reported to be a serious weed in other parts of the world.

Cabomba caroliniana

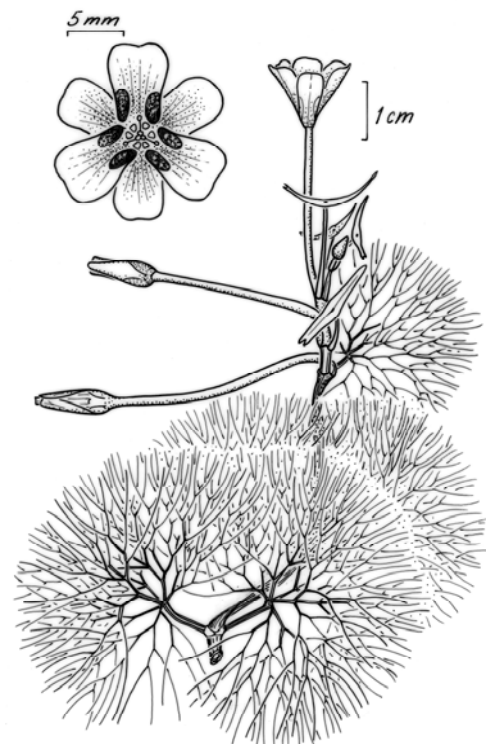


Fig. 1

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Pl. 1 *Cabomba caroliniana* (Photo: C.G. Wilson)