

MALPHIGIACEAE

CAUCANTHUS *Forssk.*

1. *Caucanthus edulis* Forssk. Qawqa'
Small climbing bush to about 2½m. Branchlets red-brown with soft appressed white hairs especially when young. Leaves with reddish petioles, opposite, rounded, entire except for the retuse or shortly mucronate apex, up to 3cm long. Flowers on reddish pedicels in many-flowered corymbs, small, cream-coloured. Fruit up to 6cm long with 6 prominent reddish wings.

Flowers mainly in early summer.

An attractive plant of cliffs and steep rocky slopes on the western escarpment from 400 to 1300m. It occurs from Bathayjah in the Ḥujariyah north to the Wadi Sara' near Khamis Banī Sa'd and Bāb Baḥal in the Ḥarāz. Despite its great abundance in the valley forest communities of J. Raymah and J. Bura' it is totally absent from similar habitats further north.

This plant is virtually restricted to Yemen and is only known elsewhere from Somalia. The name of the genus, *Caucanthus*, is based on the Arabic name, Qawqa'.