

*Cordia sinensis* (C. gharaf, C. rothii)

*Boraginaceae*

Indigenous

- Common names:** Eng: grey-leaved cordia, grey-leaved saucer berry; **Fiome:** baghalmo-lambi; Gogo: mdawi, mdawisogwe; **Goro:** hanarmo; Iraqw: bagharimo, funidang, hararmo; Maasa: ol dorko, ol olfot; Mbug: mochocho; Nyam: mlembu, mnerabu; **Nyat:** mdumwa-kiguu; Pare: mpololo; Rangi: mnembu; Swan: mkamasi, nyamate.
- Ecology:** Widespread in Africa in low-altitude arid and semi-arid areas; prefers moist river beds but can grow on stony or saline soils. In Tanzania found at the coast and in dry areas up to 1,800 m. It has been planted for fodder and firewood.
- Uses:** Firewood, timber (construction, furniture), utensils (bows, traditional stools, walking sticks), food (fruit), medicine (roots, bark), fodder (leaves), bee forage, gum, fibres, fire making, glue (fruit).
- Description:** A tangled deciduous shrub or small multi-branched tree 3-12 m, often with drooping branches. **BARK:** young **bark** smooth grey-white, later yellow-brown to black, roughly grooved. **LEAVES:** grey-green, **narrowly oblong** to 9 cm long, feel rough to the touch but hairs both sides, **tip** rounded or notched, on a **stalk about 1 cm**. Leaves more or less opposite. **FLOWERS:** tubular and small, fragrant, in cream terminal clusters, on branched hairy stalks. **FRUIT:** ovoid, to 2 cm, with a clear tip, held in a calyx cup orange-red, **like egg yolk** with very **sticky edible pulp** around 1-4 tiny seeds. The calyx has a toothed edge and covers one-third of the fruit.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, cuttings.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: about 14,000. Germination up to 60% after 30 days,
- treatment:** not necessary.
- storage:** fresh seed can be stored for a short period (3 months) at room temperature. Pour warm water on stored seed **and** soak until cold.
- Management:** Fairly fast growing; lopping, pollarding, coppicing.
- Remarks:** A very useful tree in arid areas. Dry branches are flexible; light and do not snap; used for supports on camel **pack** saddles. Fruit have a high vitamin content. The firewood has been used for ceremonial purposes.

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