

- Ecology:** A common tree of the semi-arid tropics in Africa and India. In Uganda, it is found in the dry areas of Gulu, Kitgum, Kotido, Moroto and Mbale Districts.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, tool handles, carving (clubs, javelins, walking sticks), medicine (roots, bark), fodder (leaves, fruit).
- Description:** A low shrub or tree, 2-10 m in dry deciduous woodland, produces suckers and branches from the base of the main trunk. **BARK:** smooth when young, dotted with breathing pores, later dark, rough and scaly. **LEAVES:** oval to oblong, pointed, **1-8 cm, the edge finely toothed, shiny green above but pale grey-white below**, drooping in heat. **FLOWERS:** **golden yellow**, sweet smelling, **small petals bent back over larger sepals**. **FRUIT:** rounded and **soft, 5 mm, orange then black, hairy at first**, edible, sweet but sharp on the tongue.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, root suckers.
- Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 9,000-15,000. Germination is good but sporadic; completed after 6 weeks,
- treatment:** soak in cold water for 12 hours.
- storage:** can keep viability up to a year at room temperature if kept dry.
- Management:** Slow growing; coppicing.
- Remarks:** Twigs from the tree are used by water diviners to locate underground water.

Common names: Ateso: Ipaq; Luganda: Muboma, mukawakawa (Luganda); Nyanja: Lwa; A. Podo: Lwa; Chokwe: Muboma; Kikuyu: Muboma; Luo: Muboma; Mursi: Muboma; Nyanja: Lwa; Swahili: Muboma; Tswana: Muboma; Xhosa: Muboma; Zulu: Muboma.

Ecology: Grewia bicolor is found in the parts of East Africa, particularly in the highlands and mountains of East Africa.



Propagation: Grewia bicolor is propagated by cuttings or seed. The cuttings are collected from the lower part of the tree and planted in a nursery bed. The seed is collected from the fruit and sown in a nursery bed. The seedling is raised in a nursery bed for 6-8 months before being planted in the field.

