

# Grewia flavescens

*Tiliaceae*

Indigenous

*Bl:* Medka

*Hd:* Shemi

*Km:* Bibila

*Sh:* Bretaro

*Tg:* Mosoqua

*Tr:* Rakub

**Ecology:** A shrub that grows on rocky hill tops in bush or woodland all over semi-arid and sub-humid tropical Africa south to Zaire and in arid parts of eastern Africa, extending into Arabia and India. In Eritrea, it grows in the central and northern highlands, as well as on the eastern and western escarpments, e.g. around Ala plains, Rora-mensa, Rora-habab, Halhal, Ghinda, Mai-lam and Mereb.

**Uses:** Food (fruit), medicine, fodder (leaves browsed), household utensils (sticks for stirring soup).

**Description:** An evergreen shrub, sometimes a climber, 1-3 m; many arching branches 3-4 m long. Stems are square in cross-section, fluted and scaly with coarse hairs. **BARK:** Smooth grey. **LEAVES:** Alternate, oblong, often **wider towards the long pointed tip**, 4-10 cm long, edges irregularly toothed, the **base well rounded to a short stalk, both sides with hairs. Upper surface rather rough like sandpaper to the touch** but much softer below. **FLOWERS:** **2-3 bright yellow flowers** beside leaves, **5 sepals 12-20 mm, longer than the petals**, yellow inside. Buds oblong-conical and roughly hairy. **FRUIT:** Rounded, **shiny brown and soft when ripe, about 1 cm across**, weakly divided into 2-4 lobes, **covered with sandpapery hairs.**

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

**treatment:** Soak in cold water for 12 hours.

**storage:** Mature and properly dried seed can be stored in air-tight containers at room temperature for more than a year.

**Management:** Coppicing.

**Remark:**

