

Indigenous

Af: Daiva

Ar: Basham

Bl: Senker

Km: Uba

Nr: Asegho

Sh: Dawa

Tg: Ova

Tr: Lechem

- Ecology:** One of very many Grewia found in drier parts of eastern Africa. In Eritrea, it grows in the central highland, eastern and western escarpments, e.g. on the Ala plains and around Nefasit, Ghinda, Boroka, Filfil, Mensa, upper Anseba, Enda-mariam-aila and in Hidai valley, 600-1,900 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, **walking sticks, food** (fruit), fodder (leaves and fruits), fibre (strings from bark), tool handles, roof construction (branches).
- Description:** A shrub or small tree to 1.5-9.0 m, often multi-stemmed, with spreading hairy branches, twiggy at the tips, often purple on drying. **BARK: black and rough, thick and flaky, deeply fissured, a yellow-green fibrous undersurface.** **LEAVES: pale green above but grey-white silky hairs cover the lower surface,** long oval 4-12 cm, 3 veins from the base, side veins clear and the parallel veins between, **edge clearly toothed,** tip pointed, shortly stalked. **FLOWERS:** beside leaves on **1-3 stalks over 1 cm long,** each with 2-3 flowers, the 5 sepals about 1 cm long are hairy outside and enclose **5 smaller yellow petals.** Many stamens enclose the hairy central ovary. **FRUIT: 1-2 rounded lobes, slightly hairy** and sharply tipped, each 5-7 mm, black and edible when ripe.
- Propagation:** Direct sowing at site, seedlings.
- Seed:** Seeds are collected from dry fruits after falling on the ground. 5,000-15,000 seeds per kg.
- treatment:** In the wild, germination occurs after a bush fire followed by rains. A similar light firing should be applied to the seeds before sowing.
- storage:** Can be stored in an open container in a dry cool place.
- Management:** Slow growing; coppicing, pollarding. Initial care is necessary for establishment.
- Remarks:** Fibres under the bark are made into strings. The heartwood makes excellent walking sticks.

