

Grewia mollis

Tiliaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Eparis **Luganda:** Mukoma, mukomakoma **Lugbara:** Nzu, onju **Lugwe:** Nabwor **Luo A:** Pobo **Luo J:** Omokoma **Luo L:** Opobo **Lusoga:** Lukomakoma **Madi:** Enzu **Runyoro:** Mukoma, mukomakoma.

Ecology: One of very many Grewia found in drier parts of East Africa. In Uganda, this species is found in wooded grassland along rivers and savannah woodland.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, walking sticks, fodder (leaves and fruits), fibre (strings from bark).

Description: A shrub or small tree 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 4-18 cm and 2-6 cm wide, 3 veins from the base, side veins clear and the parallel veins between, edge clearly toothed, sometimes double-toothed, tip pointed, sharply 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 surrounding stamens enclose the hairy central ovary. Flowers in May-August and fruits August-October. 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.

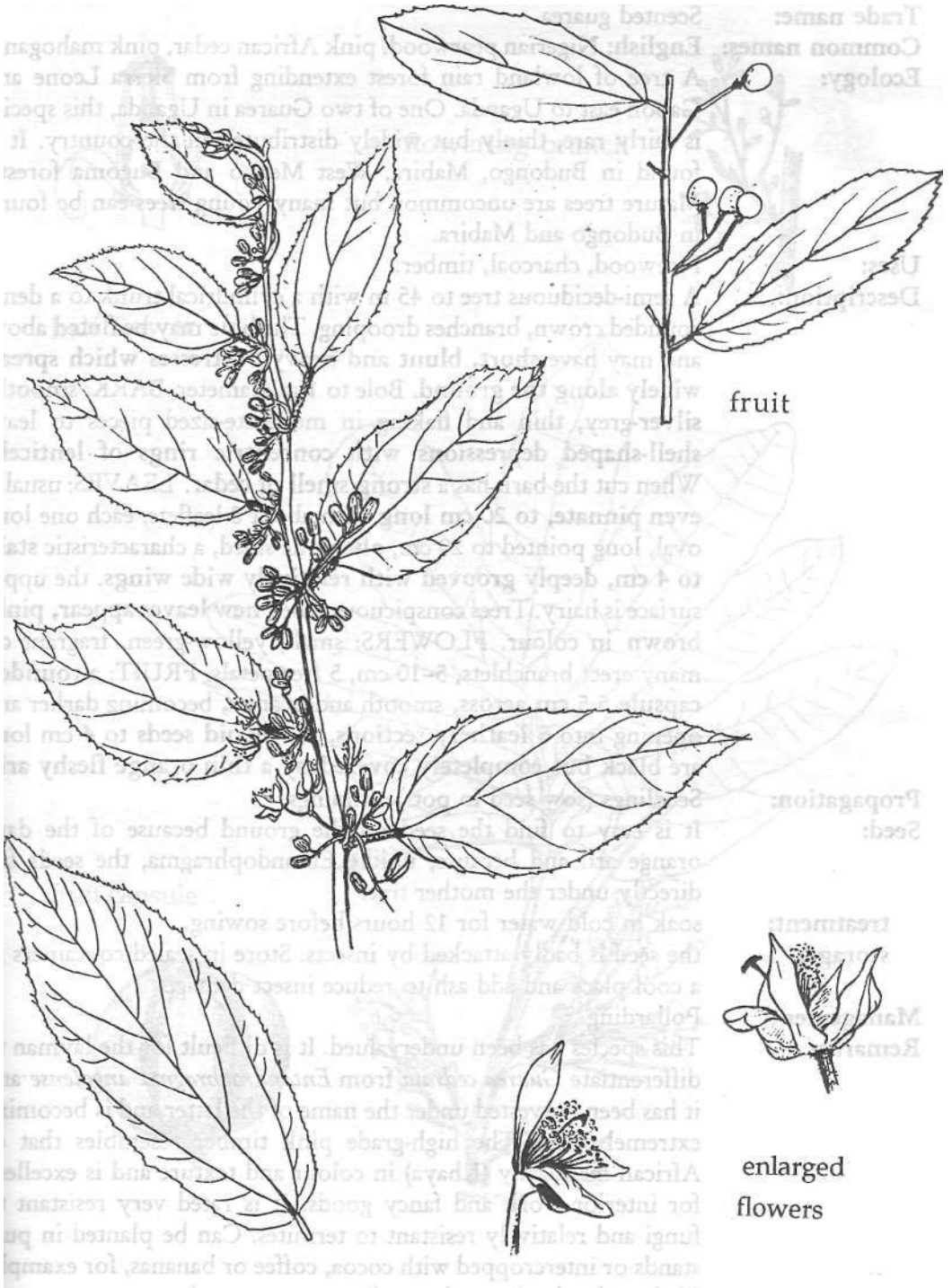
Seed: Seeds are collected from dry fruits after falling on the ground.

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 string for general use and in constructing granaries. The heartwood makes excellent walking sticks and the Acholi use the wood to make spears.



fruit

enlarged
flowers