

Grewia villosa

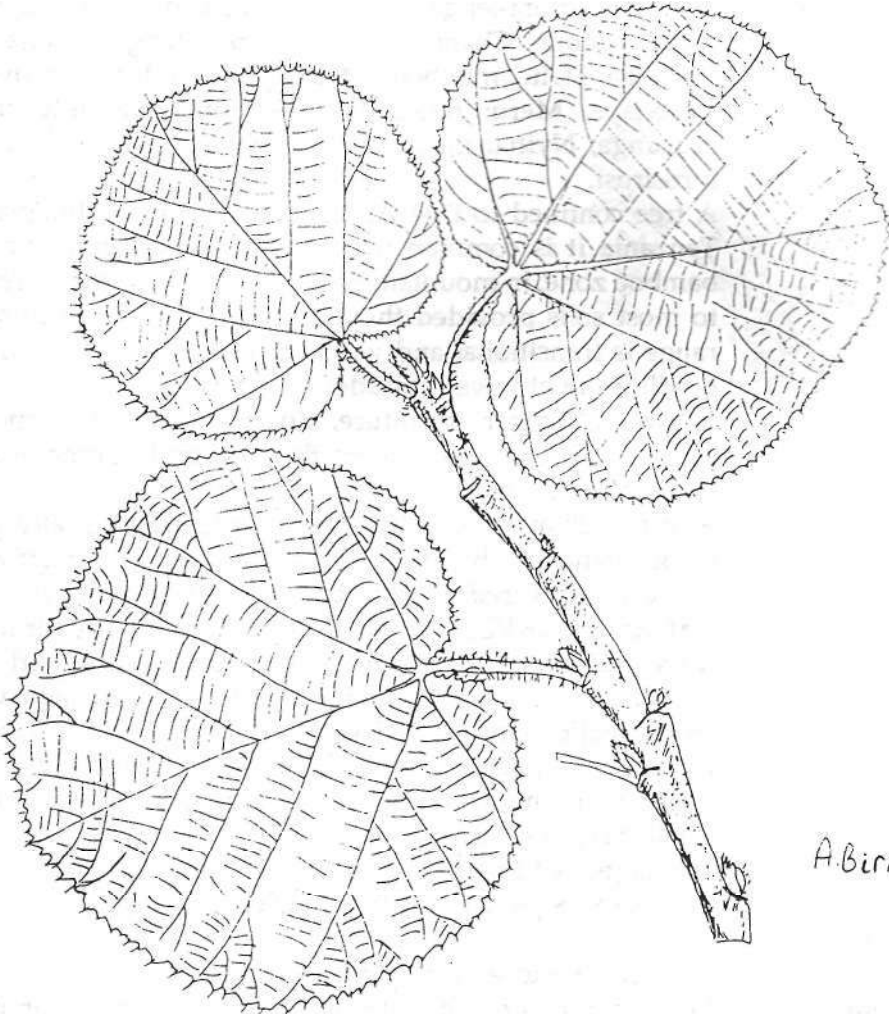
Tiliaceae

Indigenous

- Common names: Arusha: olmalungai; **Fiome**: lomo; **Iraqw. amu**; **Mbug**: motoo; Nyat: mumpembe.
- Ecology: A shrub of the arid areas in Africa and India, often on river banks liable to flooding, or on stony ground, in the shade of larger trees. In Tanzania it is found at the coast and in dry areas of Arusha region.
- Uses: Firewood, poles, tool handles, food (fruit), medicine (roots and bark), fodder (leaves), fibres (bark), carving (bows, arrows, spear shafts, walking sticks).
- Description: A deciduous shrub to about .3 m with very distinctive leaves, **young parts covered with pale silky hairs** (*villosa*). **BARK**: distinctive yellow to cream-brown, smooth. **LEAVES**: **almost round to 12 cm across**, on stalks to 4 cm. paler below and more hairy, 5 veins clearly seen. **FLOWERS**: **in small clusters, opposite leaves**, pink, **turning yellow** with age. **FRUIT**: **soft and hairy** when ripe, **red-brown, about 1 cm** across, 1-2 hard seeds within each nut.
- Propagation: Seedlings, suckers.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 16,000-17,000. Germination very **low** and slow.
- treatment: soak in cold water for 12 hours. Germination is good **and** completed after 6 weeks.
- storage: can keep viability for a year at room temperature if **kept** dry.
- Management: Slow growing; coppicing.
- Remarks: A much-liked sweet fruit.

Grewia villosa

Tiliaceae



A. Birnie

