

Otostegia fruticosa (O. repanda)

Lamiaceae

Indigenous

Tg: *Fesihadima*

Tr: *Hadalma*

Ecology: A tall shrub widely distributed in the central and northern highlands, 1,300-2,500 m. Common around Dbarwa, Seharti and Quahaito.

Uses: Firewood, fodder, ornamental, **smoke bath** (like sauna).

Description: A straggling shrub to 3 m, the branches all more or less densely hairy. **LEAVES: Oval to rounded, 5-12 cm long, hairy, edges round-toothed**, the base sometimes rounded to **a short stalk 1-2 cm. FLOWERS: Cream** in colour, beside leaves, up to 30 flowers together. The **calyx hairy, its tube 6-10 mm, funnel shaped and ribbed**; sometimes the opening has 2 lips. The papery calyx remains when the petals fall. **Corolla tube hairy, 1.3-3.0 cm. Narrow bracteoles** grow at the base of each flower. **FRUIT: 4** nutlets, 2-3 mm long.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed:

treatment: Not necessary.

storage:

Management:

Remarks: Subspecies *schimperi* has leaves less than 3 cm long and long bracteoles. The stem space between each group of flowers is large. It grows in arid bushland, rocky slopes and wadis below 1,000 m. Subspecies *fruticosa* has longer leaves, longer bracteoles and a shorter distance between flower groups.

