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Animal feed resources information system



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False brandy bush (*Grewia bicolor*)

Description	Nutritional aspects	Nutritional tables	References
<p>Click on the "Nutritional aspects" tab for recommendations for ruminants, pigs, poultry, rabbits, horses, fish and crustaceans</p>			
			
<h3>Common names</h3> <p>False brandy bush, bastard brandy bush, donkey berry, two-coloured grewia, white raisin [English]; greuvier, grévier bicolore, nogo blanc [French]; mfukufuku, mkone, mkole [Swahili]; debhi [Somali]; sefa, somaya, teye [Amharic]; basterrosyntjie [Afrikaans] (Brink, 2007; Janick et al., 2008)</p>			
<h3>Species</h3> <p>Grewia bicolor A. Juss. [Malvaceae]</p>			
<h3>Synonyms</h3> <p><i>Grewia disticha</i> Dinter & Burret, <i>Grewia kwebensis</i> N.E.Br., <i>Grewia miniata</i> Mast. ex Hiern</p>			
<h3>Feed categories</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forage trees • Other forage plants • Forage plants 			
<h3>Related feed(s)</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biul (<i>Grewia optiva</i>) • Grewia (<i>Grewia kakothamnos</i>) 			
<h3>Description</h3>			

False brandy bush (*Grewia bicolor* A. Juss.) is a many-stemmed shrub that may reach 7 to 14 m high. The bark is dark grey, deeply fissured and scaly in older trees. The leaves are alternate, elliptic to lanceolate, 1.5-12 cm long x 1-6 cm broad and typically bicoloured: the upper surface is dull green while the lower one is silvery white ([Orwa et al., 2009](#); [Brink, 2007](#)). The flowers are pentamerous, yellow, 1.5 cm in diameter. The fruit is a 2-lobed drupe, sometimes hairy, orange to purple black in colour and with a hard woody endocarp ([Orwa et al., 2009](#); [Brink, 2007](#)).

Grewia bicolor is a multipurpose shrub. The wood is valuable for construction, utensils, fuel and charcoal. The bark can be used for ropes. Sticks are useful for basketry. Bark and roots have many ethno-medicinal properties due to their high content in triterpenes and alkaloids ([Baumer, 1983](#); [Jasper et al., 1986](#); [Augustino et al., 2011](#)). The bark is used to clarify muddy water and sorghum wort, and to alleviate the bitterness of sorghum beer ([Orwa et al., 2009](#); [Brink, 2007](#); [Sawadogo Lingani et al., 2007](#)). The mucilaginous leaves can be infused or used as binding agents in sauces. The berries are edible and used to make drinks ([Baumer, 1983](#); [Jasper et al., 1986](#); [Augustino et al., 2011](#)). The tree is used as an ornamental tree, as a shade tree and as bee forage ([Orwa et al., 2009](#); [Brink, 2007](#)).

Grewia bicolor is browsed by livestock and considered to be an important and highly palatable browse species in farmers surveys in Eastern Africa ([Terefe et al., 2010](#); [Komwihangilo et al., 2001](#); [Mtengeti et al., 2006](#)). The fruits may be used as fodder ([Orwa et al., 2009](#)).

Distribution

Grewia bicolor is widely occurring in the dry savannas of the Sudano-Sahel zone and Eastern and Southern Africa. It can be found in the Arabian Peninsula and in India ([Le Houérou, 1980c](#); [Baumer, 1983](#)). It grows in low to medium altitudes, on rocky slopes, river banks or low lying depressions. It has also been found at higher altitudes (up to 2000 m). *Grewia bicolor* is a very drought-tolerant species that can survive in areas where annual rainfall ranges from 200 to 900 mm. It does well on rich, shallow sandy soils, occasionally on red clays ([Brink, 2007](#)).

Forage management

Grewia bicolor can be sown from seed or vegetatively propagated through cuttings or root suckers. Seeds can be stored up to one year before sowing. It coppices and prunes easily ([Brink, 2007](#)). *Grewia bicolor* mostly sheds its leaves during the dry season and flourishes during the rains ([Brink, 2007](#)).

Environmental impact

Biodiversity conservation

During the dry season, *Grewia bicolor* is a necessary fodder for pure browsing species such as the Western Giant eland (*Taurotragus derbianus derbianus*, a critically endangered antelope). *Grewia bicolor* and other woody savanna species should thus be considered for conservation in enclosures ([Hejzmanova et al., 2010](#)). However, the extremely dense foliage of *Grewia bicolor* can also impede access by browsers, thus reducing availability ([Pellew, 1980](#)).

Datasheet citation

[Heuzé V.](#), [Tran G.](#), [Delagarde R.](#), [Bastianelli D.](#), [Lebas F.](#), 2015. False brandy bush (*Grewia bicolor*). Feedipedia, a programme by INRA, CIRAD, AFZ and FAO. <https://feedipedia.org/node/148> Last updated on July 3, 2015, 11:20

English correction by Tim Smith (Animal Science consultant) and H el ene Thiollet (AFZ)

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