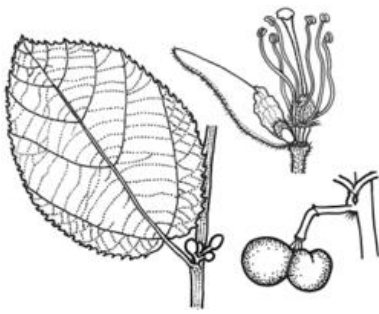


Malvaceae

Grewia latifolia

Dogs Balls Bush, Dysentery Plant

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ETYMOLOGY

History of words

(GREW-ee-a) After Nehemiah Grew 1641-1712; The species latifolia Latin latus = board + folia = leaves: refers to leaf shape

LIFEFORM

Shrub Height 1m

STATUS

Recorded 314 locations (Moran, A 2009)

HABITAT

Open forest, Lowland Rainforest, SEVT(Semi-evergreen vine thicket), AMVf

TOLERANCES

Full or part shade. Moist soils

LEAVES

Alternate, 3-15 x 2.5-13 cm, broadly ovate to cordate, often lobed green above discolourous with creamy fawn underside; Deeply serrated margins are irregularly toothed; Stipules are present, but often falling early distichous on 0.5- 2 cm stalks.

FLOWERS

Petals 2-4 mm, yellow to burnt orange, sepals narrow 1-1.5 cm pubescent outside. Stamens 5 free (not fused), anthers 2 celled on axillary 2-3 cymes.

Flowering Times: Jan, Feb, March

FRUIT

Drupes, 1.5 cm, strigose or glabrous, succulent initially green then red, 2-4 lobes depressed, brown, hard on drying, ripen.

Fruiting Times: Feb, Sept

STEM

Spreading much branched low shrub with slender stems that arise from rootstock; Downward arching branches, new growth is green.

ETHNOBOTANY

Interrelations between people and plants

Edible fruit, bush food, but slightly tart, fruit salad like. Decoction made from leaves or fresh leaves chewed to cure diarrhoea & dysentery.

INDIGENOUS USE

Rough brown fruit are eaten raw when ripe. Leaf chewed in treatment of dysentery and diarrhoea. Stems are source of fibre.

ID FEATURE

Leaves 2-ranked +Numerous stamens + Drupes in 1-4 clusters; Nuts within the fruiting capsules are edible; Aust has 12 species;