

# Grewia

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The large flowering plant genus ***Grewia*** /ˈɡruːiə/ is today placed by most authors in the mallow family Malvaceae, in the expanded sense as proposed by in the APG. Formerly, it was placed in either the linden family (Tiliaceae) or the Sparrmanniaceae. However, these were both not monophyletic with respect to other Malvales - as already indicated by the uncertainties surrounding placement of *Grewia* and similar genera - and have thus been merged into the Malvaceae. Together with the bulk of the former Sparrmanniaceae, *Grewia* is in the subfamily Grewioideae and therein the tribe Grewieae, of which it is the type genus.<sup>[2]</sup>

The genus was named by Carl Linnaeus, in honor of the botanist Nehemiah Grew (1641-1712) from England. Grew was one of the leading plant anatomists and microscope researchers of his time, and his study of pollen laid the groundwork for modern-day palynology.

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## Ecology and uses

Several Lepidoptera caterpillars are found to feed on *Grewia* species. These include the common nawab (*Polyura athamas*) and the swift moth *Endocliita malabaricus*. The Bucculatricidae leaf miner *Bucculatrix epibathra* is apparently only found on *G. tiliaefolia*.

The parasitic wasp *Aprostocetus psyllidis* of the Eulophidae occurs on and around phalsa (*G. asiatica*). Its larvae are parasitoids of other insects - possibly pests of the plant, but this is not known for sure.

Several species, namely phalsa, are known for their edible fruit, which are of local commercial importance. The astringent and refreshing *Grewia* drupes are particularly popular in summertime. Folk medicine makes use of some species, which are reputed to cure upset stomachs and some skin and intestinal infections, and seem to have mild antibiotic properties. *G. mollis* is reputed to contain β-carboline alkaloids,<sup>[3]</sup> though whether such compounds occur in other species too and whether they are produced in quantities to render the plants psychoactive has not been thoroughly studied.

## Selected species

### Grewia



Crossberry (*Grewia occidentalis*)

### Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Rosids
Order:	Malvales
Family:	Malvaceae
Subfamily:	Grewioideae
Tribe:	Grewieae
Genus:	<i><b>Grewia</b></i> <div>L.</div>

### Species

Numerous, see text or Complete list

### Synonyms

- *Arsis* Lour.
- *Balmeda* Steud.
- *Chadara* Forsk.
- *Chadra* T.Anders. (orth. var.)
- *Charadra* Scop. (orth. var.)
- *Fallopia* Lour. (*non* Adans.: preoccupied)
- *Graevia* Neck.
- *Greuia* Stokes. (orth. var.)
- *Grewia* L. (orth. var.)
- *Inodapnhis* Miq.

- *Grewia abutifolia* (= *G. sclerophylla* Roxb. ex G. Don , *Sterculia tiliacea* Leveille)
- *Grewia asiatica* – phalsa, falsa
- *Grewia avellana* Hiern. (= *G. calycina* N.E.Br., *G. hydrophila* K.Schum., *G. perennans* K.Schum.)
- *Grewia bicolor* Juss. (= *G. disticha* Dinter & Burret , *G. grisea*, *G. kwebensis* N.E.Br., *G. miniata* Mast. ex Hiern. , *G. mossambicensis*)
- *Grewia biloba* G.Don – Bilobed Grewia (= *G. biloba* var. *glabrescens* (Benth.) Rehder , *G. glabrescens* Benth., *G. parviflora* var. *glabrescens* (Benth.) Rehder & E.H.Wilson)
  - *Grewia biloba* var. *microphylla* (Maxim) Hand.-Mazz. (= *G. parviflora* var. *microphylla* Maxim.)
  - *Grewia biloba* var. *parviflora* (Bunge) Hand.-Mazz. (= *G. chanetii* H.Lév., *G. parviflora* Bunge, *G. parviflora* var. *velutina* Pampanini)
- *Grewia bilocularis* Balf.f.
- *Grewia caffra* Meisn. (= *G. fruticetorum* J.R.Drummond ex Baker f. )
- *Grewia calymmatosepala* K.Schum.
- *Grewia celtidifolia* Juss. (= *G. asiatica* var. *celtidifolia* (Jussieu) L.F.Gagnepain , *G. simaoensis* Y.Y.Qian, *G. yunnanensis* H.T.Chang)
- *Grewia ciclea andilambarika* (Malagasy)
- *Grewia crenata* (J.R.Forst.) Schinz & Guillaumin (= *G. malococca*, *G. persicaefolia*, *G. prunifolia*, *Mallococca crenata*) – au‘ere (Cook Islands), *fau ui* (Samoa), *fo ui* (Tonga)
- *Grewia damine* Gaertn. (= *G. salviifolia* B.Heyne ex Roth )
- *Grewia eriocarpa* Juss. (= *G. boehmeriifolia* Kanehira & Sasaki , *G. elastica* Royle, *G. lantsangensis* Hu)
- *Grewia flava* DC. (= *G. cana* Sond., *G. hermannioides* Harv.)
- *Grewia flavescens* Juss. (= *G. flavescens* var. *longipedunculata* Burret)
- *Grewia glabra* Blume – sometimes included in *G. multiflora*
- *Grewia glandulosa* Vahl (= *G. salicifolia* Schinz)
- *Grewia goetzeana* K.Schum.
- *Grewia hexamita* Burret (= *G. messinica* Burt Davy & Greenway , *G. schweickerdtii* Burret)
- *Grewia hirsuta* Vahl.
- *Grewia hornbyi* Wild
- *Grewia inaequilatera* Garcke
- *Grewia insularis* Ridl. (Christmas Island)
- *Grewia lasiocarpa* E.Mey. ex Harv.
- *Grewia latifolia* F.Muell. ex Benth.
- *Grewia limae* Wild
- *Grewia microthyrsa* K.Schum. ex Burret
- *Grewia mollis* Juss.
- *Grewia monticola* Sond. (= *G. cordata* N.E.Br., *G. discolor*, N.E.Br.)
- *Grewia multiflora* Juss. (= *G. didyma* Roxb. ex G.Don , *G. disperma* Rottler, *G. guazumifolia* Juss., *G. jinghongensis* Y.Y.Qian, *G. oblongifolia* Blume, *G. serrulata* DC.)
- *Grewia occidentalis* L. – Crossberry
- *Grewia olukondae* Schinz. (= *G. flavescens* var. *olukondae* (Schinz) Wild)
- *Grewia optiva* J.R.Drumm. ex Burret (= *G. oppositifolia* Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don)
- *Grewia orientalis* Carl Linnaeus
- *Grewia oxyphylla* Burret
- *Grewia pachycalyx* K.Schum.

- *Mallococca* J.R.Forster & G.Forster
- *Sasali* Adans.
- *Syphomeris* Steud.
- *Tridermia* Rafin.
- *Vincentia* Boj.
- *Vinticensa* Steud.
- *Viticena* Benth. (orth. var.)

[1]



*Grewia damine* flowers in Hyderabad, India



*Grewia flavescens* flowers in Hyderabad



*Grewia tiliaceifolia* flowers in Hyderabad

- *Grewia picta* (= *G. aldabrensis* Baker)
- *Grewia retinervis* Burret (= *G. deserticola* Ulbr.)
- *Grewia retusifolia* Kurz
- *Grewia robusta* Burch
- *Grewia rothii* DC
- *Grewia schinzii* K.Schum. (= *G. velutinissima* Dunkley)
- *Grewia similis* K.Schum.
- *Grewia stolzii* Ulbr.
- *Grewia sulcata* Mast.
- *Grewia tembensis* Fresen.<sup>[4]</sup>
- *Grewia tenax* (Forssk.) (= *Chadara tenax* Forssk., *G. populifolia* Vahl)
- *Grewia tiliifolia* Vahl (= *G. rotunda* C.Y.Wu, *G. tiliaefolia* (*lapsus*), *Tilia rotunda* C.Y.Wu & H.T.Chang)
- *Grewia transzambesica* Wild
- *Grewia turbinata* Balf.f.
- *Grewia villosa* Willd.

## Formerly placed here

Some species once placed in *Grewia* (or genera synonymous with it) have since been moved elsewhere, particularly to *Microcos*:<sup>[5]</sup>

- *Alangium salviifolium* (as *G. salviifolia* L.f.)
- *Dombeya boehmiana* (as *Vincentia boehmiana* (F.Hoffm.) Burret)<sup>[6]</sup>
- *Kleinhovia hospita* (as *G. meyeniana*)
- *Microcos chungii* (as *G. chungii* Merr.)
- *Microcos nervosa* – possibly belongs in *M. paniculata* (as *G. nervosa* (Lour.) Panigrahi)
- *Microcos paniculata* (as *G. microcos* L. and possibly *G. nervosa* (Lour.) Panigrahi)
- *Microcos triflora* (as *G. stylocarpa* Warb. and *G. stylocarpa* var. *longipetiolata* Merr.)
- *Trichospermum mexicanum* (as *G. mexicana* DC.)



*Kleinhovia hospita* was formerly known as *Grewia meyeniana*

## Footnotes

1. Hinsley (2008a)
2. Heywood *et al.* (2007)
3. Brown (2001)
4. Bussmann, R. W., et al. (2006). Plant use of the Maasai of Sekenani Valley, Maasai Mara, Kenya. (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1475560/>) *J Ethnobiol Ethnomed* 2 22.
5. Hinsley (2008a), USDA (2008a)
6. Hinsley (2008b)

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