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Parkia bicolor

[Synonyms : *Parkia agboensis*, *Parkia zenkeri*]

ESSANG is a tree. Native to tropical western Africa (from Senegal to Ghana) it has small red flowers.

It is also known as *Asoma* (Fanti, Ghanaian), Bicolor parkia, and *Osoma* (Ashanti).

Fresh wood when cut stains the blade blue. The flowers last for 1 night. The seeds are dispersed by birds and mammals.

Bicolor is derived from Latin *bi-* (two) and *-color* (colour) components.

The fruit and seeds are eaten locally.

Local fishermen have used the fresh fruit as bait.

Locally the wood has been used for making planking and for canoes.