

Erythrina variegata L.

Family:
Fabaceae

Linnaeus, C. von (1754) *Herbarium Amboinense* : 10. Type: Herb Amboin.

Common name:
Bat's Wing Cork Tree; Coral Tree

Stem

Deciduous; leafless for a period between July and October. A tree with conical prickles on the trunk and/or the branches. Blaze odour resembling that of fresh green beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) or peas (*Pisum sativum*).

Leaves

Pairs of globular glands present on the upper surface of the compound leaf axis where the middle and lateral leaflets are attached. Leaflet blades about 13-20 x 7-17 cm. Twigs very prickly.

Flowers

Calyx about 20-30 mm long, clothed in stellate hairs. Standard much longer than the other petals. Stamens 10, all filaments united in a tube. Usually flowering when leafless.

Fruit

Pods +/- circular in transverse section but constricted between the seeds. Pods about 17-20 cm long. Seeds +/- reniform. Testa dull red.

Seedlings

Cotyledons thick and fleshy, about 20 mm long, without venation. First pair of true leaves cordate. At the tenth leaf stage: leaflet blades +/- cordate; a single gland at the apex of the petiole and similar glands near the point of attachment of the middle leaflet; petiole without spines; stipules linear, about 5 mm long, hairy; stem armed with numerous thorns. Seed germination time 8 to 286 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NT, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards to south east Queensland. Occurs at low elevations close to sea level. Grows in beach forest on both sand dunes and rocky shorelines. Also occurs in Africa, the Indian Ocean islands, Asia, Malesia and the Pacific islands.

Synonyms

Erythrina indica var. *phlebocarpa* (Bailey) Domin, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(3): 776(1926).
Erythrina phlebocarpa F.M.Bailey, *Queensland Agricultural Journal* 1(5): 368(1897), Type: Newcastle Bay, Cape York Peninsula, Frank L. Jardine.

RFK Code

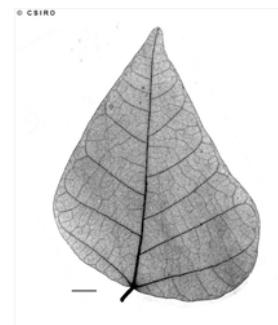
359



Fruit. © CSIRO



Pods and seeds. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



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