

# Delonix regia

# Caesalpinioideae

Madagascar

*Eng:* Flamboyant

**Ecology:** Although this tree is widely spread in the tropics, in Eritrea it has only been planted as an ornamental, e.g. in Mai-habar, Ghinda and Keren, below 1,500 m.

**Uses:** Bee forage, **ornamental, shade**, beads (seeds).

**Description:** A medium-sized deciduous tree with **an umbrella crown**, reaching a maximum of 15 m. **BARK:** Grey, smooth. **LEAVES:** Compound, up to 45 cm long, **light green and feathery**, leaflets numerous, **each less than 1 cm long**. **FLOWERS:** Brilliant **scarlet-red-orange in clusters**, others appearing on the bare tree, each flower **to 10 cm across with 5 petals**, one cream and heavily spotted. **FRUIT:** **Heavy flat pods to 75 cm long** remaining many months on the tree. When dry they break open to release oblong seeds.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing.

**Seed:** Seeds prolifically. High germination rate. No. of seeds per kg: 2,000-2,300.

**treatment:** Immerse seed in boiling water for 5 minutes and allow to cool.

**storage:** Seed can be stored for long periods as it is not damaged by insects.

**Management:** Coppicing.

**Remarks:** A fast-growing species which has a shallow root system making it unsuitable to grow near buildings. The dense canopy prevents its use for intercropping.

