

Family: *Fabaceae* Lindl. (/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:30000147-2)

Genus: *Erythrina* L. (/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:30007957-2)

## *Erythrina senegalensis* DC.

Coral tree has nothing to do with coral reefs – the name comes from the stunning bright red colour of its flowers, which appear on the tree in profusion when it is still without leaves. These flowers stand out starkly against the deeply fissured bark, and present quite a show in the wooded grassland which is its natural habitat. But it is beauty with a sting in its tail – the bark is covered in large, sharp spines. Because of this, the tree is planted for hedging. Only a very determined intruder would try to pass through a hedge made of this tree – and a stupid one, too, because a good coral tree hedge is impenetrable. It is a common tree in villages, planted for its medicinal uses and beauty, as well as for hedging.

([http://storage.googleapis.com/powop-assets/kew\\_profiles/Erythrina\\_senegalensis\\_vdB976\\_3\\_main\\_web\\_fullsize.jpg](http://storage.googleapis.com/powop-assets/kew_profiles/Erythrina_senegalensis_vdB976_3_main_web_fullsize.jpg))

## ▼ Descriptions

### ▼ According to Flora of West Tropical Africa [FWTA]

Papilionaceae, Hutchinson and Dalziel. Flora of West Tropical Africa 1:2. 1958

#### Habit

Usually a small tree, 10–15 ft. but sometimes attaining a height of 40–50 ft.

#### Prickles

Armed with stout prickles slightly recurved from a woody base

#### Flowers

Conspicuous with scarlet flowers, usually when leafless; standard petal folded flat

#### Ecology

In savannah country and commonly planted as a hedge.

### ► According to Kew Species Profiles [KSP]

## ▼ Uses

### ▼ According to Project MGU - Useful Plants Project (UPP) database [UPPd]

#### Infections & Infestations

Active against gram positive bacteria and methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Unspecified parts - Insect management products from Malian traditional medicine

#### Blood System Disorders

Jaundice Unspecified parts - Insect management products from Malian traditional medicine

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## Ornamentals

Unspecified parts - Plant Resources of Tropical Africa: basic list of species and commodity grouping

› According to Kew Species Profiles [KSP]

## ▼ Images



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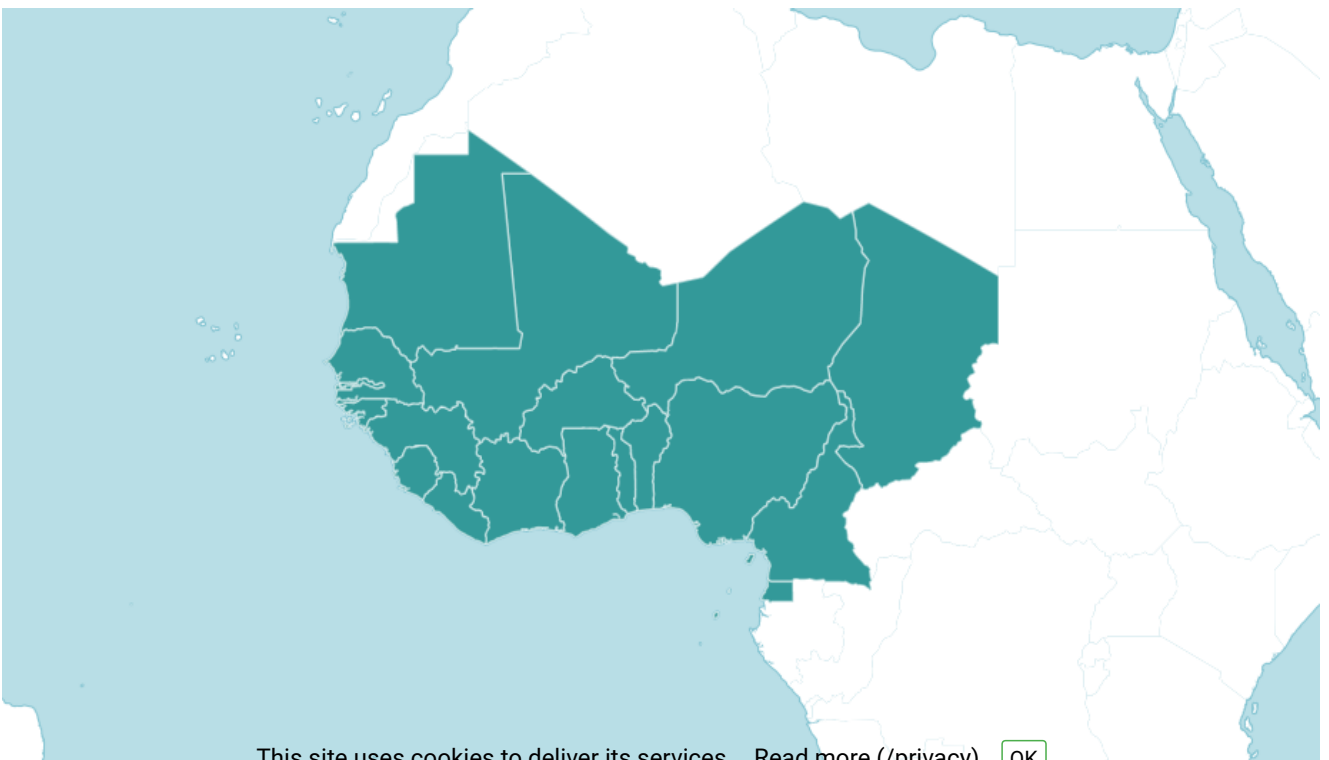


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📖 KSP

## ▼ Distribution



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Native

› Full Distribution Listing

KB

## ▼ Common Names

English

Coral tree

KSP

## › Other Data

## › Bibliography

## ▼ Sources

### Flora of West Tropical Africa

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### Kew Names and Taxonomic Backbone

The International Plant Names Index and World Checklist of Selected Plant Families (2017). Published on the internet at <http://www.ipni.org> and <http://apps.kew.org/wcsp>

[B] See <http://kew.org/about-kew/website-information/legal-notices/index.htm> (<http://kew.org/about-kew/website-information/legal-notices/index.htm>) You may use data on these Terms and Conditions and on further condition that: The data is not used for commercial purposes; You may copy and retain data solely for scholarly, educational or research purposes; You may not publish our data, except for small extracts provided for illustrative purposes and duly acknowledged; You acknowledge the source of the data by the words "With the permission of the Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew" in a position which is reasonably prominent in view of your use of the data; Any other use of data or any other content from this website may only be made with our prior written agreement.

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### Kew Species Profiles

Kew Species Profiles

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### Project MGU - Useful Plants Project (UPP) database

[F]

