

## Erythrina vespertilio

Erythrina vespertilio is a small, straggly tree, 6 - 10m high, with thorns on the trunk and branches.

The bark is creamy-grey, deeply furrowed and corky.

Leaves are bifoliolate or trifoliolate, 10 - 15cm long with leaflets broadly wedge-shaped or 3-lobed and resemble a bat's open wings. Leaflets are 7-12 cm x 5-12 cm, the terminal leaflet, if present, is often longer and narrower than the others. The plant is deciduous in the dry season.

Scarlet to orange-red pea flowers 3 - 4 cm long are borne in terminal racemes 5 - 25cm long. Flowering period is August to September. The seeds are orange to dark yellow in colour, bean-like, about 1.2cm long and are borne in pods 6 - 12 cm x 1.5 - 1.8 cm, the pods being constricted between the seeds.

The species will grow in a wide range of soils as long as drainage is good and it has plenty of sun.

### Propagation

Propagation is done easily from seed or cuttings. Generally no seed treatment is required but light scarification may assist germination.

