

Adenanthera pavonina

Mimosoideae

India, South-East Asia

- Common names:** **Eng:** bead tree, Circassian seed, crab's eyes, red sandalwood.
- Ecology:** It has been planted in East Africa as an ornamental tree, often naturalized. At the coast, trees flower in April, produce fruit in June and seed in September. It will grow on infertile sandy soils.
- Uses:** Shade, ornamental, food (leaves), weights (seeds), beads.
- Description:** A deciduous, spreading tree 4-20 m with low leafy branches; **BARK:** grey, smooth when young, becoming rough at maturity. **LEAVES:** compound, alternate, to 40 cm, the **leaflets oval to 4 x 2 cm, the tip rounded, short stalks.** **FLOWERS:** very small, **yellow-brown on slender drooping stalks,** fragrant. **FRUIT:** brown, narrow pods, about 20 cm long, curved and bulging with seeds. **Pods split into two twisted halves to show shiny scarlet seeds against the yellow inner pod.** Seeds are slightly flat, like pills, very hard.
- Propagation:** Seedlings.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 4,000. Seed germination is very good, up to 90% after only 7 days.
- treatment:** nick the hard seed coat or immerse in hot water, allow to cool and soak for 24 hours.
- storage:** seeds store very well for a long time if kept dry.
- Management:** Fast growing on good sites.
- Remarks:** Much favoured for planting as an avenue tree in towns especially at low altitudes. The heartwood is hard and red. The young leaves are used as a vegetable in India.

