

Flame of the forest

Common name: Flame of the forest

Botanical name: *Butea monosperma*

Family: Faboideae; **Name in Tamil:** *Parasa, Kattumurukku, Murukku, Palasu, Pungu, Purasu, Vallai, Vallaiparasu*



Field identification: Deciduous, tree. Erect tree with crooked trunk and irregular branches, 20-40 feet. Bark rough, ash coloured. Leaf trifoliate, common stalk 10-23cm, leaflets leathery texture, terminal leaflet blunt oval shape, 4-8 inches. Flowers bright orange-red in clusters with black velvety calyces. Fruit pod, up to 20 cm long, with single seed.

Location on campus: Nambikai Nilayam

References: (i) Sahni, K.C. (1998) *The Book of Indian Trees*. Mumbai: Bombay Natural History Society/ Oxford University Press. p 87-88. (ii) Blatter, E. & Millard, W.S. (1997) *Some Beautiful Indian Trees*. Mumbai: Bombay Natural History Society/ Oxford University Press. p12-17 (iii) Krishen, P. (2006) *Trees of Delhi: A field guide*. Dorling Kindersley, New Delhi. p200-1