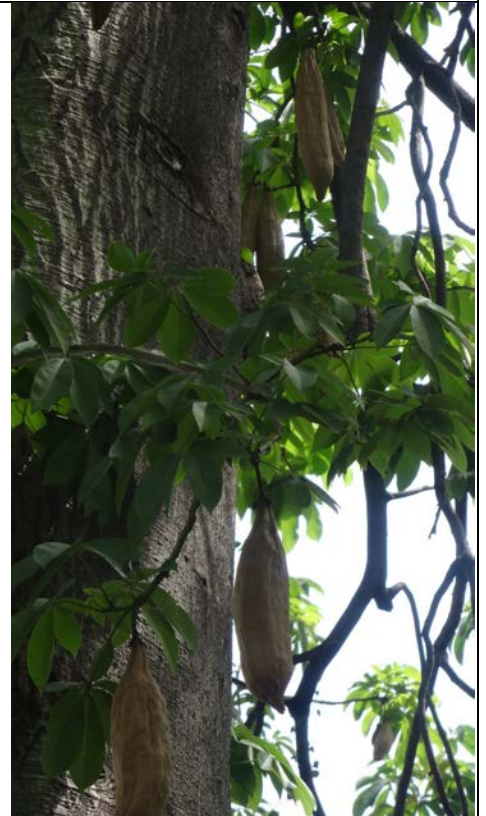


Red Silk Cotton

Common name: Red Silk Cotton; **Botanical name:** *Bombax ceiba*; **Family:** Bombacaceae

Name in Tamil: *Agigi, Illavam, Ilavu, Kongu, Mulilavu, Parutti, Pongar, Pulai, Purani, Sallagi, Samani, Sanmali, Selavagu, Sittan, Surabu*



Field identification: Lofty buttressed, deciduous tree, up to 40 m. Bark ashy, not rough with lower trunk with conical prickles. Tiers of whorled branches. Leaves, palmately compound, 5-7 lance-shaped leaflets. Flowers large, brilliant crimson, coral, white with 5 petals. Fruit pod, 15 cm long with seeds embedded in white silky cotton floss.

Location on campus: 352 A1, Janatha Road

References: (i) Sahni, K.C. (1998) *The Book of Indian Trees*. Mumbai: Bombay Natural History Society/ Oxford University Press. p 39. (ii) Blatter, E. & Millard, W.S. (1997) *Some Beautiful Indian Trees*. Mumbai: Bombay Natural History Society/ Oxford University Press. p122-126 (iii) Menon S, Bagla P. (1999) *Trees of India*. New Delhi, Timeless Books.p51-54. (iv) Krishen P. (2006) *Trees of Delhi: A field guide*. Dorling Kindersley, New Delhi. p212-213.