

18. DELONIX Rafinesque, Fl. Tellur. 2: 92. 1837.

凤凰木属 feng huang mu shu

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Trees, unarmed. Leaves large, abruptly bipinnate, stipulate; pinnae many pairs; leaflets numerous, small. Inflorescences corymbose racemes, terminal. Flowers bisexual, white, orange, or red, large, showy. Bracts caducous, small. Receptacle discoid or turbinate. Sepals 5, obovate, subequal, valvate. Petals 5, alternating with sepals, orbicular, margin crispatate, clawed. Stamens 10, free, declined. Ovary sessile; ovules numerous; style filiform; stigma truncate. Legume pendulous, compressed, strap-shaped, 2-valved; valves thickly woody, hard. Seeds transverse, oblong.

Two or three species: from E Africa and Madagascar to tropical Asia; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Delonix regia* (Bojer) Rafinesque, Fl. Tellur. 2: 92. 1837.

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Poinciana regia Bojer, Bot. Mag. 56: t. 2884. 1829.

Trees, deciduous, large, to 20 m tall. Bark grayish brown, rough; crown hemispherical. Branches numerous, spreading; branchlets puberulent, with conspicuous lenticels. Leaves 20–60 cm; stipules in lower part conspicuously pinnatipartite, in upper part setiform; petiole 7–12 cm, glabrous to puberulent, sulcate, inflated at base; petiolules short; pinnae opposite, 15–20 pairs, 5–10 cm; leaflets 25 pairs, crowded, opposite, oblong, 4–8 × 3–4 mm, midvein conspicuous, both surfaces silky, base oblique, margin entire, apex obtuse. Corymbose racemes terminal or axillary. Flowers bright red to orange-red, 7–10 cm in diam.; pedicels 4–10 cm. Receptacle discoid or shortly turbinate. Sepals reddish inside, margin greenish yellow. Petals reflexed after anthesis, red, tinged with yellow and white spotted, spatulate, 5–7 × 3.7–4 cm; claw long, ca. 2 mm, slender. Stamens curved upward, red, unequal in length, 3–6 cm; filaments thick, woolly in lower part; anthers red, ca. 5 mm. Ovary ca. 1.3 cm; stigma small. Legume dark reddish brown, blackish brown when mature, slightly curved, 30–60 × 3.5–5 cm, apex with persistent style. Seeds 20–40, yellowish tinged with brown spots, ca. 15 × 7 mm, smooth, hard. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Aug–Oct.

Cultivated in Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Taiwan, Yunnan [native to Madagascar; often cultivated in the tropics].

This species is widely cultivated in botanical gardens and city parks in S China as an ornamental tree. The resin is soluble in water. The wood is light, soft, and springy, with a special grain, and is used for craft materials.

