

23. ERYTHROPHLEUM Afzelius ex R. Brown in Denham & Clapperton,
Narr. Travels Africa, 235. 1826.

格木属 *ge mu shu*

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Trees. Leaves alternate, bipinnate; stipules caducous, small; pinnae few pairs, opposite; leaflets alternate, leathery. Flowers small, crowded together in terminal panicles of spicate racemes. Calyx campanulate, with 5 short subequal lobes; tube short. Petals 5, subequal. Stamens 10, free; filaments equal or alternately longer and shorter. Ovary stalked, hairy; ovules numerous; style short; stigma small. Legume compressed, long, thickly leathery, 2-valved dehiscent when ripe, pulpy within between seeds. Seeds transverse, oblong or obovoid, compressed, with endosperm.

About 15 species: tropical Africa, tropical and subtropical E Asia, and N Australia; one species in China.

1. *Erythrophleum fordii* Oliver, Hooker's Icon. Pl. 15: t. 1409.
1883.

格木 *ge mu*

Trees, ca. 10 m tall, sometimes to 30 m tall. Young shoots ferruginous puberulent. Leaves glabrous; pinnae usually 3 pairs, opposite or subopposite, 20–30 cm; petiolules 2.5–3 mm; leaflets 8–12, ovate to ovate-elliptic, 5–8 × 2.5–4 cm, base rounded, oblique, margin entire, apex acuminate. Panicles 15–20 cm; peduncles ferruginous pubescent. Calyx outside pilose; lobes oblong, margin densely pubescent. Petals pale yellowish green, longer than calyx lobes, oblanceolate, inside and marginally densely pubescent. Stamens ca. 2 × as long as petals, glabrous. Ovary oblong, densely yellowish white pubescent, 10–12-ovuled. Legume compressed, oblong, 10–18 × 3.5–4 cm, with reticulate veins. Seeds blackish brown, slightly compressed, oblong, 2–2.5 × 1.5–2 cm. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Aug–Oct.

Sparse or dense forests, mountain slopes. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Taiwan, Zhejiang [Vietnam].

The wood is dark brown, hard, and bright, with fine, close grain. A famous hardwood, it is used for ship building and for pillars of houses.

