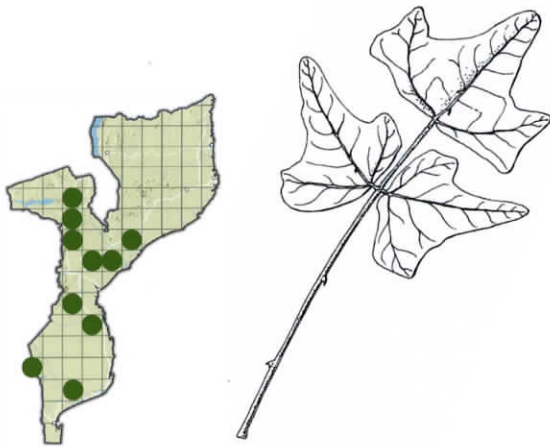


Erythrina livingstoniana

Erythrina livingstoniana Baker **Livingstone's Coral-tree.** (*livingstoniana*: after Dr David Livingstone [1813–1873], explorer and missionary in Central Africa).

Deciduous tree to 10 m tall; in mixed semi-deciduous coastal woodland, extending up the Zambezi valley, 50–600 m. **Stem:** straight, often branching high up; bark rough, with vertical rows of large spine-tipped bosses; twigs shiny, set with scattered large greyish straight thorns. **Pinnae** (leaflets): broader than long, 75–160 x 80–210 mm, trilobed, apices broadly acute-obtuse, base ± square, lateral leaflets basally asymmetric, glabrous throughout, rachis, petiole and main veins with pale curved spines. **Flowers:** calyx red, fusiform, split below, glabrous, apparently without lobes but with 5 minute lobes; petal (standard) oblanceolate, scarlet, folded basally (Jan–Mar). **Fruit:** a distinctly ± straight 'string of beads', each segment ± round, woody, splitting to reveal a rather dull orange-red seed. **Distribution:** confined to Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique where it extends southwards as far as Xai-Xai. There are plausible reports of *E. livingstoniana* growing east of the Lebombo Mts in the Limpopo Transfrontier Park.



Erythrina fusca

Erythrina fusca Lour. **Beach Coral-tree, Swamp Immortelle, Ndrala.** (*fusca*: meaning brown or dusky, probably referring to the colour of the seeds).

Small (evergreen?) tree 6–7 m tall; coastal, along upper reaches of beaches; sea-level. **Stem:** bark smooth, light brown, vertically wringled, set with corky bosses, surmounted by oval black spines, old bark roughish with small corky bosses; twigs smooth, beige, set with prominent black upward-curving spines. **Pinnae** (leaflets): elliptic to oblanceolate-elliptic, to 150 x 60 mm, apex acute, base cuneate, bright light green above, pale glaucous below, lacking thorns or with 1–2 prickles; rachis and petiole pale green, with a few small prickles. **Flowers:** calyx pinkish green, minutely hairy, ± entire, with a pointed keel below; standard petal orange to crimson, strongly folded, stamens emerging from below (Aug–Sept). **Fruit:** a slender thin-walled pod ± 200 mm long, constricted between seeds, hairless, grey-blackish; seed oblong-ellipsoid, brown to blackish. **Distribution:** throughout the tropics although barely in Africa where it is known only from three localities: a single record from Pemba Island off the Tanzanian coast, and two from the Cabo Delgado coast of Mozambique – on Vamizi Island, and south of Nacala.

General: as the seeds float, and are dispersed by ocean currents, it is possible that the two records represent relatively recent arrivals by sea from the East.

