

Adenanthera pavonina

Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae

Order : Fabales

Family : Fabaceae

Genus : *Adenanthera*

Species : *A. pavonina*



Adenanthera pavonina

DESCRIPTION :

The tree is common within the tropics of the old world. It has also been introduced in the following countries of the America. *Adenanthera pavonina* is a [perennial](#) and non-climbing species of [leguminous](#) tree. Its uses include food and drink, [traditional medicine](#), and [timber](#). A large deciduous tree, bark pale pinkish grey. Leaves bipinnate, up to 24 cm long, rachis c. 10-40 cm long, petiole c. 5-10 cm long, pinnae opposite, 2-6 pairs, c. 7-12 cm long, leaflets 7-15 pairs, sessile, alternate, obovate, 1.5-4.0 cm long, 5-25 mm broad, margins slightly curved backwards, base unequal. Inflorescence axillary and terminal raceme, c. 7.5-15 cm long. Flower pedicellate, pedicel 3.5-4.0 cm long. Calyx 5, gamosepalous, 5 toothed, c. 1 mm long. Corolla pale yellow, c. 2.5-3 mm long, petals united at the base. Stamens 10, free, hardly exerted, anthers with a gland at the tip. Fruit a pod, curved, becomes coiled after dehiscence, 10-22.5 cm long, c.7-10 mm broad. Seeds many, bright red in colour, like beads, c. 7-8 mm wide.

Uses

- This tree is useful for nitrogen fixation, and it is often cultivated for forage, as an ornamental garden plant or urban tree, and as a medicinal plant.
- The young leaves can be cooked and eaten. The raw seeds are toxic, but may be eaten when cooked

- In traditional medicine, a decoction of the young leaves and bark of *Adenantha pavonina* is used to treat diarrhoea. Also, the ground seeds are used to treat inflammation.
- *Adenantha pavonina* leaf extract has antibacterial activity against the intestinal pathogen *Campylobacter jejuni*. Also, high doses of seed extract have an anti-inflammatory effect in studies in rats and mice.