

Erythrina vespertilio

(Fabaceae)

- Common name:** Bat's-wing coral tree.
- Localities:** Moggill State Forest, Upper Brookfield.
- Growth form:** A deciduous tree with corky bark and usually with stout prickles on trunk and branches.
- Foliage:** Leaves have three leaflets, up to 11 cm long and wide. They are very characteristic in shape, being very broad, narrowing abruptly and often also with a narrowly tapering point. Leaf shape varies greatly over the range of the species.
- Flowers and fruit:** Flowers are in erect racemes and are orange-red and showy, about 3 cm long. They are produced mainly in spring. The pods contain 1-3 red or yellow seeds.
- Habitat:** Occurs in dry rainforests.
- Propagation and Management:** Seeds need to be scarified before they will germinate. Bats-wing coral tree requires full sun and good drainage, but will tolerate drought and also a wide range of poor soils.
- General:** The flowers attract birds. Aborigines ate the roots, raw, and also used the seeds, which are poisonous, for adornment. The wood is soft and was used for making shields and water-carriers.

