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Amherstia nobilis

PRIDE OF BURMA is an evergreen tree. Native to Burma (often referred to today as Myanmar) it has large honeysuckle-like, vermillion and yellow flowers with long central stamens.

It is also known as Amherstia (English and Spanish), Flame amherstia, Noble amherstia, Orchid flower, Orchid tree, Splendid amherstia, *Thawka* (Burmese), and *Toha* (Burmese).

Nobilis is Latin (known) meaning ‘notable, famous or excellent’.

Pride of Burma (which is held by many botanists to be the most beautiful of trees) was first discovered in 1826 by Dr. Nathaniel Wallich (1786-1856) in a neglected monastery garden near the Salween River in teak forests in eastern Myanmar (more familiarly known in the West as Burma). The tree is said to have been introduced to Ceylon (now called Sri Lanka) in 1860 (and to Trinidad on the other side of the Atlantic three years earlier).

Today it can be found growing as an ornamental plant.