

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Caesalpinia gilliesii

[Synonyms : *Erythrostemon gilliesii*, *Poinciana gilliesii*]

BIRD OF PARADISE is a deciduous climber, shrub or tree. Native to Argentina and Uruguay, it has unpleasant-smelling, red or light yellow flowers with long curved, red stamens.

It is also known as Bird of paradise shrub, Paradise poinciana, Poinciana, and Red bird of paradise.

Warning – green pods and seeds can cause nausea, diarrhoea and vomiting.

Gilliesii commemorates a Scottish naval surgeon, John Gillies (1792-1834) who collected many plants in Argentina and Chile among them the bird of paradise which he introduced to Kew in England in 1829. Some authorities have suggested that he is one of the overlooked botanists of the past.

In Mexico especially it is said to be a familiar and popular ornamental plant.