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*Erythrina crista-galli*

[Synonyms : *Corallodendron crista-galli*, *Erythrina crista-galli* var. *hasskarlii*, *Erythrina crista-galli* var. *leucochlora*, *Erythrina fasciculata*, *Erythrina laurifolia*, *Erythrina pulcherrima*, *Erythrina speciosa*, *Micropteryx crista-galli*, *Micropteryx fasciculata*, *Micropteryx laurifolia*]

**CORAL TREE** is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to warm South America (particularly Brazil) it has pea-like, deep scarlet flowers.

It is also known as *Červenica kuria* (Slovak), Christ's tears, Cockscomb, Cockscomb coral, Cockspur coralbean, Cockspur coral tree, Cockspur thorn, Common coral tree, Coral, Coralbean, *Coraleira* (Portuguese), *Coralina Cristada* (Portuguese), *Crête de coq* (French), Cry-baby, Cry-baby tree, *Érythrine* (French), *Hahnenkamm-Korallenbaum* (German), *Koralbusk* (Danish), *Korrallenstrauch* (German), *Korallträäd* (Swedish), Mediterranean coral tree, and *Tuppkamsträd* (Swedish).

The flowers are pollinated by birds and fall quickly.

*Crista-galli* is derived from Latin *cristati*- (crest) and *galli*- (cock, gall) components meaning 'cock's comb'.

It is said that the name Cry-baby, sometimes heard around Louisiana in the southern United States, is a description of the large amount of nectar produced by the flowers.

Apparently the coral tree grows quickly and is often cultivated to provide shade for crops.

Authorities suspect that coral tree was introduced to Europe in about 1771. It is grown as an ornamental plant there.

The coral tree is a national flower of Argentina, and Uruguay.

At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century medical research performed by British scientists discovered that coral tree contains a protein which, when combined with another drug, can significantly improve the control of chronic pain compared with other régimes then available.