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*Erythrina herbacea*

[Synonyms : *Corallodendron herbaceum*, *Erythrina arborea*, *Erythrina hederifolia*, *Erythrina herbacea* var. *arborea*, *Erythrina humilis*, *Erythrina rubicunda*, *Xyphanthus hederifolius*]

**CHEROKEE BEAN** is a shrub, tree or vine. Native to southern North America it has bright red flowers.

It is also known as Cardinal-spear, Coral bean, Eastern coral bean, Red cardinal, Snakeweed, and Southeastern coral bean.

Warning – the raw seeds are poisonous for some animals.

*Herbacea* means ‘herbaceous or not woody’.

While the seeds have been used in Mexico as rat poison and a poison for dogs, elsewhere they have provided beads for necklaces.

Local North American Indian tribes took a decoction of the root as a medicine to reduce fever. A leaf decoction provided a general tonic for the Choctaw Indians, while the Alabama prescribed a cold root infusion for some female disorders. Authorities have also noted that the Seminole Indians took it as a laxative and a remedy for some urinary problems. They also applied it externally to treat rheumatism.