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*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* var. *schizopetalus*

[Synonyms : *Hibiscus schizopetalus*]

**CORAL HIBISCUS** is an evergreen shrub. Native to tropical East Africa it has deep pink flowers with a stamen-bearing tube extending below the flower head.

It is also known as *Arana* (Colombian, Spanish), *Canastilla* (Colombian, Spanish), Chinese lantern, Climbing hibiscus, Dissected hibiscus, East African hibiscus, *Farolito chino* (Spanish), *Fjäderhibiskus* (Swedish), Fringed hibiscus, Fringed rosemallow, Fuchsia hibiscus, Japanese hibiscus, Japanese lantern, *Lanterninha* (Brazilian, Portuguese), *Lie ban zhu jin* (Chinese), *Paraguaita china* (Panamanian, Spanish), *Phu ra hong* (Thai), Skeleton hibiscus, and *Sulkahibiskus* (Finnish).

The flowers are pollinated by birds feeding on the nectar.

*Rosa-sinensis* is derived from Latin *rosa* (rose) and *sinensis* (of or from China) components meaning ‘Chinese rose (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*)’. *Schizopetalus* is derived from Greek *schizo-* (split) and Latin *petalum* (petal) components meaning ‘with cut or split petals’.

John Kirk (1832-1922), a British consul in Zanzibar, is said to have been the first European to see coral hibiscus. He discovered it growing near Mombasa in 1874.