

Clusia rosea

Autograph tree, copey

Clusia rosea Jacq.

Family: Clusiaceae

Description: Tree with epiphytic capability, up to 65 ft tall, smooth bark. Leaves opposite, thick, 6 inches long by 5.5 inches wide, wider at apex. Words scratched on the leaves remain prominent, hence the common name. Flowers 2.5 inches diameter, in clusters of up to 3, petals 6–8, white or pink, short-lived (half day). Male and female flowers on the same tree, or on separate trees. Seed capsule greenish brown, fleshy, round, 3 inches diameter, splits into 8–9 parts revealing seed enclosed within thin, red pulp, which attracts birds. The leaves, bark, and gum from the fruit had medicinal uses. *Clusia* after botanist Carolus Clusius or Charles de l'Écluse, d. 1609; *rosea*, rose-like^(5, 59, 69, 70).

Distribution: From West Indies and Florida, introduced into Hawai'i as an ornamental and widely planted in yards and commercial sites. Naturalized in low-elevation disturbed lands on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Hilo and Kona on Hawai'i. First collected in 1934 on O'ahu⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Spreading in disturbed low-land forests and roadsides by birds.

Management: No work on management known.

