

Spathodea campanulata

African tuliptree

Spathodea campanulata
P. Beauv.

Family: Bignoniaceae

Description: Tree to 75 ft tall. Leaves pinnately compound, 3–19 leaflets. Leaflets 5 inches long by 3 inches wide, reddish brown on lower surface. Calyx a leathery sack filled with watery sap, in clusters, from which blooms a showy scarlet-orange flower, year-round with heaviest flowering in winter–spring. Fruits clusters of upright, canoe-shaped capsules, 10 inches long, 2.5 inches diameter, containing many small flat seeds with membranous halos, which are disbursed by the wind. *Spathodea* refers to the spath-like calyx; *campanulata*, bell-shaped flowers^(5, 59, 70).

Distribution: From Africa, occurs in moist to wet forests and pastures on Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Moloka‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i. Date of introduction uncertain⁽⁷⁰⁾.



Environmental impact: Plants appearing deep in forests. Prolific seeder, seed disbursed by wind.

Management: Trees sensitive to cut-surface applications of dicamba and glyphosate; saplings sensitive to basal bark applications of 2,4-D and triclopyr.