

## AUTHOR QUERY FORM

	<b>Book: CARIBBEAN-9780000101010</b> <b>Chapter: 24</b>
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Location in Chapter	Query / Remark
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## *Spathodea campanulata* P. Beauv.

### Jacaranda family

Bignoniaceae

### COMMON NAMES

English: fireball; Flame tree; fountain tree; Nandi flame; Nile flame; tulip tree

### DESCRIPTION

Deciduous, large, upright tree [10–15 (–35) m tall] and trunk up to 170 cm in diameter with a dense wide crown; younger branches are almost hairless or having a sparse covering of short hairs, older branches thick with small white-coloured corky pots; shoots, buds and branchlets covered in yellow-brown hairs, slightly buttressed.

**Bark:** Pale, grey-brown, smooth, rough with age.

**Leaves:** Green, yellow-brown soft hairs on underside, large compound leaves (50 cm long) with (7–) 11–15 (–17) leaflets, broadly oval or egg-shaped (15 cm long and 7.5 cm wide), margins entire, 2–3 glands at base of each leaflet, leaves oppositely arranged on stalks up to 6 cm long.

**Flowers:** Orange, showy, tulip-shaped, dense clusters (8–10 cm long) at ends of branches; cluster stalk (10 cm long), individual flower stalks

short and covered in brownish hairs (yellow-flowering variety exists).

**Fruit:** Pods (several-seeded dry fruits that split open at maturity), green changing to brown as they mature, elongated (17–30 cm long and 3.5–5 cm wide).

### ORIGIN

Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

### INTRODUCED FOR

Fuelwood, carving, medicine, bee forage, shade, ornamental, mulch, windbreak, and erosion control.

### INVADES

Roadsides, disturbed land, forest edges/gaps and riparian areas.

### IMPACTS

Native plants are displaced by the shading effect of the large leaves, resulting in reduced biodiversity under tree canopies (Weber, 2003). In surveys in Fiji respondents claimed that the African tulip tree competes with crops, reduces the amount of land available for grazing livestock and that it leads to the loss of more desirable trees that are used for medicinal purposes and/or firewood (Brown and Daigneault, 2014). It is a weed of coffee plantations in Cuba (Herrera-Isla *et al.*, 2002) reducing yields. In Cuba it covers large areas and is a serious threat to the integrity and productivity of ecosystems (Medina *et al.*, 2004). In the Escambray mountains, Cuba, an area of around 60 000 ha. of forest, coffee plantations and abandoned land has been invaded (Labrada and Medina, 2011). Densities of 12,000 plants have been recorded per ha. Some farms in the Dominican Republic have also been invaded by *S. campanulata* (Labrada and Medina, 2011). Small stands are easy to control manually when the tree is still young, but once widespread and abundant, removal of the tree becomes cumbersome (Labrada and Medina, 2011).

### NOTES

Present on many Caribbean islands (CABI, 2021) it has only been recorded as invasive in the Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and St Lucia. Rojas-Sandoval *et al.* (2017). Found to be present on Grenada and St Kitts and Nevis; naturalized on Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines; and invasive on Barbados and St Lucia (A. Witt, *pers. obs.*).



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