

Bauhinia variegata

orchid tree



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Appearance: Semi-deciduous tree to 15 m (50 ft) tall, with a spreading crown.

Leaves: Alternate, long petioled, to 3 cm (1.25 in) long, thin-leathery, simple but deeply cleft at apex, forming 2 large rounded lobes; lower surfaces downy, especially at top of petiole; blades with 11–13 veins extending from heart-shaped or rounded base.

Flowers: Showy, fragrant, in few-flowered clusters near stem tips; 5 petals, clawed, overlapping, pale magenta to indigo (occasionally white), with dark red and yellow also on upper petal; 5 stamens (rarely 6).

Fruit: A flat, oblong pod, to 30 cm (1ft) long, 10–15-seeded.

Ecological threat:

Noted as occasional across south Florida; invading disturbed areas and displacing native vegetation in hammock margins and occasionally in globally imperiled pine rocklands. FLEPPC Category I

Distribution: C, SW, SE



Field Notations

BAUHVARI/BAVA

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>