



## BULL HOOF

(*Bauhinia divaricata*)

This is a small tree which grows up to 6 m high is very common in dry limestone areas. The distinctive leaves are bi-lobed approximately 8 x 8 cm and the shape suggests the common name, Bull hoof.

It flowers frequently, clusters of pink and white flowers at the end of the leafy twigs. The arrangement of the flowers is in the form of a raceme, that is, the older flowers are at the bottom of the stalk, and the younger flowers nearer the tip which ends with a bud. There are five petals to each flower, which begin white and turn pink. They are narrow and 1 - 2.5 cm long. Each flower also has one long fertile white stamen, 3-4 cm long, with a black anther. The fruit is a pod containing 3 or 4 seeds.

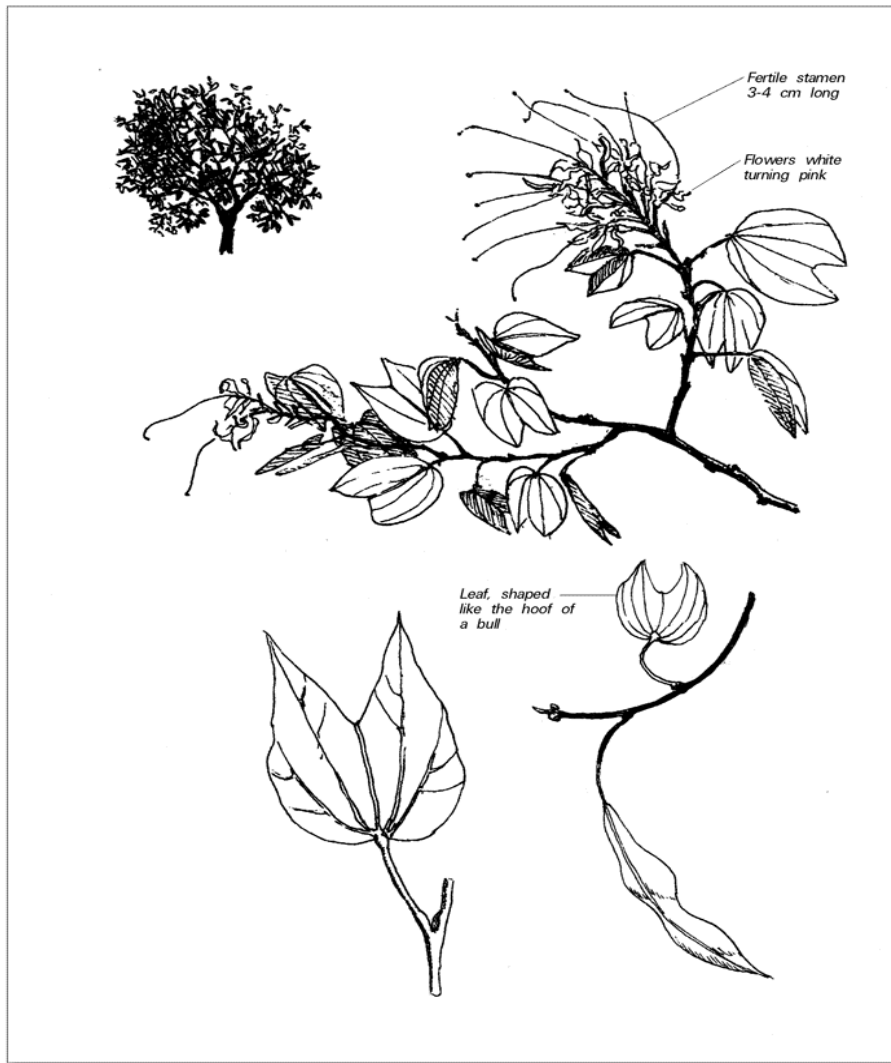
The tree attracts various butterflies, the most prominent of which is the Cloudless Sulphur, *Phoebis sennae*.

There are other species of *Bauhinia* trees growing in Jamaica. One is called the Poor Man's orchid, and has a larger flower, white and mottled with purple. Others have pink or white flowers. The commonly grown Orchid tree with large mauve flowers is a hybrid. All these trees have the characteristic bilobed leaves.



## BULL HOOF (*Bauhinia divaricata*)

Family: <b>Caesalpiniceae</b>	Species: <i>Bauhinia divaricata</i>	Author: Linnaeus
----------------------------------	--	---------------------



Height: 6m	Habitat: Sea level-1200m	Persistence: Evergreen
---------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------

