



TRUMPET TREE

(*Cecropia peltata*)

This slender tree is a native of central and northern South America and the West Indian Islands. It grows up to 12 m high and has a watery sap which becomes sticky, like glue. It grows at medium elevations of up to 1000 m and it is often seen on recently cleared forest land. It is fast growing and can colonize these areas in great numbers in a short time.

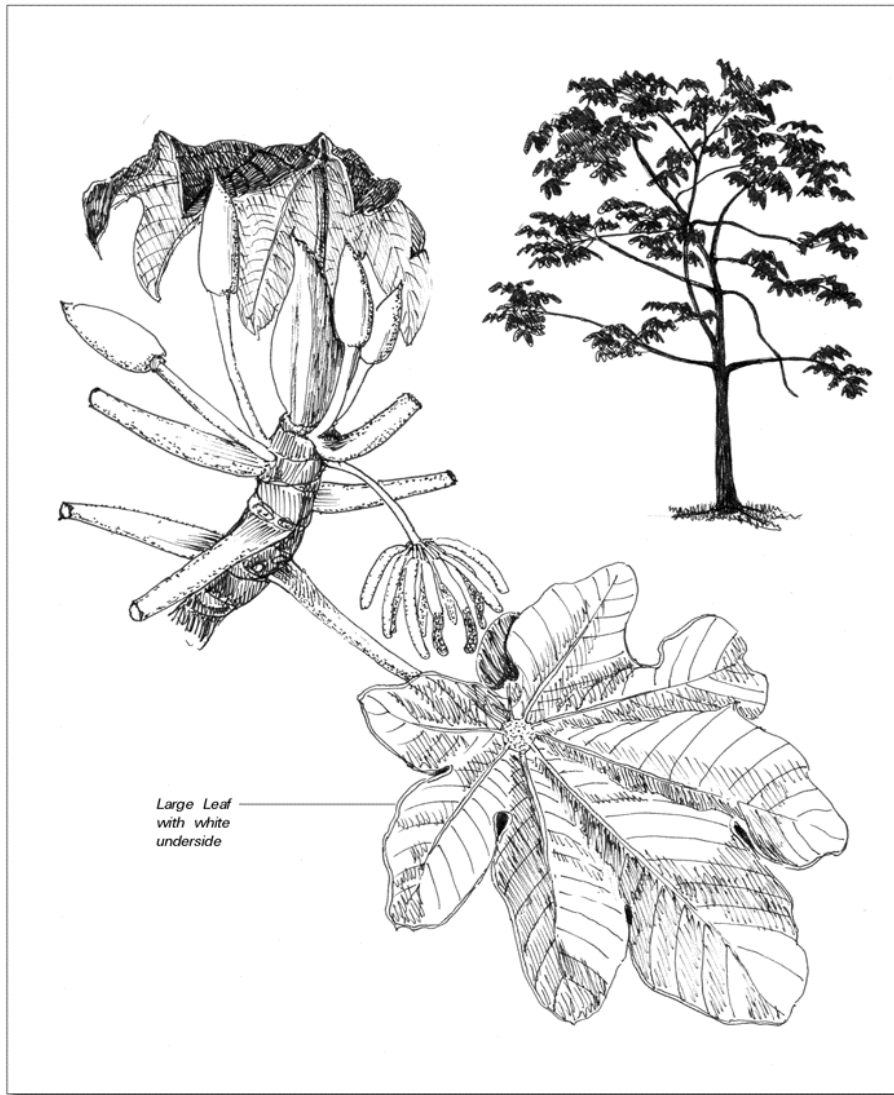
The leafstalk or petiole and small branches of the trumpet tree are hollow and can be used for making a trumpet-like noise. The leaf itself is deeply lobed or indented into as many as eleven sections. It is broad (measuring up to 30 cm across) and strongly veined with a whitish underside which shows up clearly when it is windy. These leaves are palmate, grow in an alternate pattern on the tree trunk and form clusters around the ends of the branches.

Small male and female flowers (10-12 cm long) grow at the base of the leaves. The fruits are edible, grey-brown and look like clusters of rounded spikes. The tree trunk is smooth and grey and when the tree is young it sometimes develops prop roots.

Trumpet tree wood is used to make rafts and boards for fences. When boiled the leaves make a tea which is thought to be cleansing and healing for the kidneys, useful for causing sleep and for control of diabetes, high blood pressure and asthmatic attacks.

TRUMPET TREE (*Cecropia peltata*)

Family: Moraceae	Species: <i>Cecropia peltata</i>	Author: Linnaeus
----------------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------



Height: 12m	Habitat: Moist hilly areas, sea level-1000m	Persistence: Evergreen
----------------	--	---------------------------