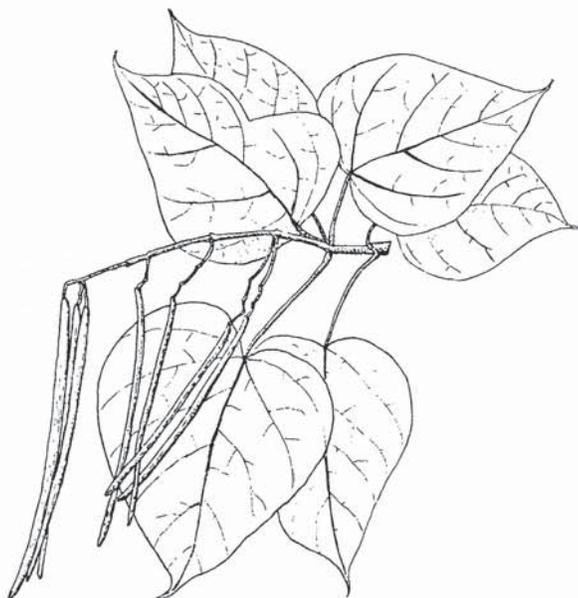


### 153. SOUTHERN CATALPA\*

*Catalpa bignonioides* Walt.; common catalpa.

Introduced small to medium-sized tree 50 ft (15 m) high, with short trunk 1½ ft (0.5 m) in diameter and rounded open crown of spreading branches and coarse foliage. **Twigs** stout, green, turning brown, hairless or nearly so, brittle, with large rounded raised leaf-scars in 3's. **Buds** in 3's, tiny, rounded, light brown, with about 6 pointed scales; no end bud.



**Leaves** in 3's (whorled) or sometimes 2's (opposite), with long leafstalk, *ovate, large*, 5-10 in (13-25 cm) long, 4-7 in (10-18 cm) wide, *abruptly long-pointed*, notched at base, *not toothed* on edges, *dull green* and hairless above, paler and soft hairy beneath, with unpleasant odor when crushed, turning blackish in autumn.

**Flower clusters** (panicles) upright at end of leafy twig in late spring, large, branched, to 10 in (25 cm) long and wide. Flowers many, slightly fragrant, *large and showy*, 1½ in (4 cm) long and wide, corolla *bell-shaped* with 5 unequal rounded fringed lobes, *white* with 2 orange stripes and many purple spots inside.

**Fruits** *very long narrow cylindrical dark brown capsules, cigarlike* or beanlike, 6-12 in (15-30 cm) long, *less than ¾ in (1 cm) in diameter*, thin-walled, splitting into 2 parts, maturing in autumn, remaining attached in winter. **Seeds** many, flat, light brown, with 2 papery wings pointed at ends with tuft of hairs.

**Bark** brownish gray, scaly.

**Wood** gray brown with thin whitish or gray sapwood, shiny, with faint odor, ring porous, coarse-textured, moderately lightweight (sp. gr. .38), moderately soft, very resistant to decay or durable. Used for fenceposts, construction, interior finish, and cabinetwork.

Planted for shelterbelts and shade through Okla. (except panhandle), escaping from cultivation in moist soil. Widely naturalized in open areas, such as roadsides and clearings, e. half of U.S. Native probably in sw. Ga., nw. Fla., Ala., and Miss., the original range uncertain. Zone 6.

Grown as a shade tree and ornamental for the abundant large white flowers. Catalpa is an American Indian name. The caterpillars or larvae of the catalpa sphinx moth, which feed upon the leaves, are used as fish bait.