



# Caladium bicolor

(*Caladium bicolor*)

The plant is known by various common names around the world, including angel wings, heart of Jesus and elephant ear. It originated in South and Central America and is used for ornamental purposes.

## Description

- Perennial, herbaceous plant, bulbous, no hairs, stands straight to a height of approximately 50 cm
- Pointed, heart-shaped leaves arranged in a rosette, measuring 20 by 30 cm, pulpy stem 35 to 55 cm long, green with or without white or pink spots, primary and radiating secondary veins, in some cases white or pink to red in colour
- Axillary inflorescence with a spathe in a cone-shaped envelope, green base and white extremity, up to 14 cm long and 5 cm wide. Male spadices in the upper section, female in the lower
- Fruit in the form of orangish berries

## Ecology and reproduction

- The preferred habitat is wetlands, e.g. riparian forests, river banks, swampy areas
- Rapid development with deciduous leaves during the dry season in the natural environment
- Entomophilous pollination
- Vegetative multiplication is possible via cuttings of the bulbs
- All parts of the plant are toxic

## Documentation

- CABI. 2019. Invasive species compendium. *Caladium bicolor* [On line] <https://www.cabi.org/ISC/datasheet/121808>

Author: Doriane Blottière, IUCN French committee, for the Resource Centre on invasive alien species in conjunction with the overseas IAS initiative. July 2019. Published by the French Biodiversity Agency.

### Classification

Order	Alismatales
Family	Araceae
Genus	<i>Caladium</i>
Species	<i>C. bicolor</i> (Aiton, Vent., 1801)

