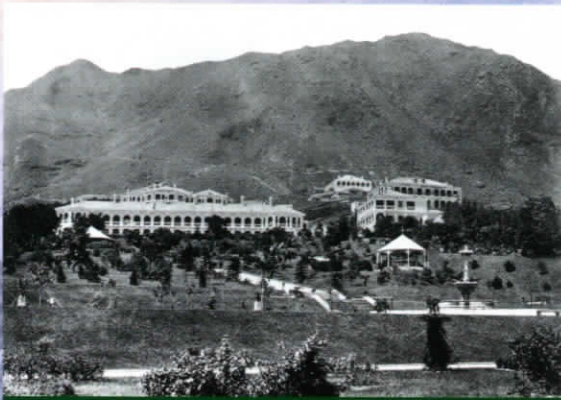


以香港命名的植物

Plants named after Hong Kong



香港植物園(約1870年)
Hong Kong Botanical Garden (ca. 1870)

香港的植物研究歷史悠久，150年來陸續有新種發現。這不單反映了香港豐富的植物種類，而且更表明了植物研究人員不斷的努力探索。在香港發現的新種中，除了那些以形態特徵或人名命名外，有16種是以香港作為種加詞命名的：即 *hongkongensis* 或 *hongkongense*。雖然兩者均曾使用，但《國際植物命名法規》建議使用前者。這裏介紹這些以香港命名的植物，您又認識多少呢？

Hong Kong has a very long history of botanical studies. New species have been constantly discovered in Hong Kong for the last 150 years. This not only indicates the rich plant diversity in Hong Kong, but also relies on the continuous efforts of researchers in

botanical exploration. Amongst the new species discovered in Hong Kong, besides those named after their characteristics or persons, there are 16 species named after Hong Kong, with the specific epithet as either *hongkongensis* or *hongkongense*. Both epithets were formerly used but the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* recommends only the former. Introduced here are the species named after Hong Kong. How many of them can you recognise?



香港遠志 *Polygala hongkongensis* Hemsley

遠志科 (Polygalaceae)

發現年份 Discovered 1847-1850

本種於1847至1850年間由J. G. Champion在香港島扯旗山首次發現。為生於林下的直立草本至亞灌木，高15至50厘米，莖枝細，葉互生，卵形。花白色或紫色，3瓣。蒴果近圓形，具闊翅。香港島、馬鞍山及大帽山有紀錄。江蘇、安徽、浙江、江西、福建、湖南及廣西也有分布。此外，香港還有華南遠志及另外4種遠志屬的植物紀錄。

J. G. Champion first discovered this species in Victoria Peak, Hong Kong Island between 1847 and 1850. It is an erect herb or subshrub growing in forest, 15 to 50 cm tall, with thin stems. Leaves alternate, oval in shape. Flowers are white or purple, with 3 petals. Capsule almost spherical, with wide wings. Recorded in Hong Kong Island, Ma On Shan and Tai Mo Shan. Distributed also in Jiangsu, Anhui, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Fujian, Hunan and Guangxi. Besides, *Polygala glomerata* and four further species of *Polygala* have been recorded in Hong Kong.





本種於1847至1850年間由J. G. Champion在香港首先發現，但當時被定為另一品種。直到1930年才以香港命名為新種。本種為常綠灌木，高1至4米，多分枝，花白色至淡紅色，長2至3厘米，花期四月。生於水邊或疏林中。跑馬地、聶高信山、馬鞍山及大嶼山有紀錄。廣東一帶也有分布。香港還有其他幾種原生杜鵑，包括毛葉杜鵑、華麗杜鵑、羊角杜鵑、南華杜鵑及紅杜鵑。

J. G. Champion first discovered this species in Hong Kong between 1847 and 1850 but was identified as another species at that time. Later, it was described as a new species and named after Hong Kong in 1930. Evergreen shrubs, 1 to 4 m tall, many-branched. Flowers white or pinkish, 2 to 3 cm long. Flowering in April. Growing in thin forests or streams. Recorded in Happy Valley, Mount Nicholson, Ma On Shan and Lantau Island. Distributed also in Guangdong. Other native *Rhododendrons* occurring in Hong Kong include *Rhododendron championae*, *R. farrerae*, *R. moulmainense*, *R. simarum* and *R. simsii*.



香港茶 *Camellia hongkongensis* Seemann

山茶科 (Theaceae)

發現年份 Discovered 1849

在1849年J. Eyre首先在香港島一河谷發現，那時僅見三株，隨後再於香港島其他地點發現。本種為生長緩慢的常綠喬木，高達10米，花紅色，無柄，直徑5-7厘米，花期12月至翌年2月，乃唯一開紅花的本土茶屬植物。扯旗山、薄扶林、聶高信山及柏架山有紀錄，生於山地疏林中。廣東一帶也有分布。中國有不少著名的茶花，而在香港首先發現的茶花還有紅皮糙果茶(克氏茶)及大苞山茶(葛量洪茶)，花潔白，大而美麗。



J. Eyre first discovered this species in 1849 when three individuals were found in a ravine in Hong Kong Island. It was subsequently found in several localities of the Island in thin forests. Slow growing evergreen trees, up to 10 m tall. Flowers red, sessile, 5 to 7 cm in diameter. Flowering from December to February of the following year. It is the only native *Camellia* with red flowers in Hong Kong. Recorded in Victoria Peak, Pok Fu Lam, Mount Nicholson and Mount Parker. Also distributed in Guangdong. China is famous for her numerous *Camellia* species, among which *Camellia crapnelliana* and *C. granthamiana* are beautiful native species first discovered in Hong Kong.

香港四照花 *Dendrobenthamia hongkongensis* (Hemsley) Hutchinson

山茱萸科 (Cornaceae)

發現年份 Discovered 1850

本種於1850年由J. G. Champion在香港島首先發現，但直到1888年才以香港命名。本種為常綠喬木，高達25米，較為稀有，只在幾處濕潤山谷的密林中有紀錄。花由四片長橢圓形的白色苞片襯托，非常雅致，花期5至6月。柏架山、扯旗山、城門、大帽山、鳳凰山有紀錄。浙江、江西、湖南、福建、廣東、廣西、貴州、雲南、四川也有分布。



J. G. Champion first discovered this native species in Hong Kong Island in 1850s. It was named after Hong Kong in 1888. It is very rare and recorded only in a few locations within ravine forests with high humidity. Evergreen trees, up to 25 m tall. Flowers composed of four, white, elliptic bracts. Flowering in May and June. Recorded in Mount Parker, Victoria Peak, Shing Mun, Tai Mo Shan and Lantau Peak. Distributed also in Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Hunan, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan, and Sichuan.



香港大沙葉 *Pavetta hongkongensis* Bremekamp

茜草科 (Rubiaceae)

發現年份 Discovered 1850

本種的模式標本於1850年間由美國人懷特 (C. Wright) 在香港島首先發現，但直到1934年才以香港命名為新種。為灌木，葉對生，薄紙質，葉片常有點狀的固氮菌瘤，當陽光透過時便可見到，因瘤點多且密，彷彿天上繁星，故民間又稱為“滿天星”。花潔白，花序大，密生枝頂，極具觀賞價值，花期夏季。本種在香港常見，生於山地疏林下或灌叢中。海南、廣東、廣西、雲南及菲律賓也有分布。

American collector Charles Wright first collected the type specimen of this species in Hong Kong Island in 1850s but it had not been described as a new species and named after Hong Kong until 1934. Leaves opposite and papery, with numerous spots of nitrogen-fixing bacteria throughout the leaf lamina (easily seen by putting the leaves against sunlight), hence the folk name "Starry Sky" or "Dusty Stars". Flowers white, as an inflorescence crowded near the apex of branches. This species is an attractive ornamental plant flowering in summer. It is a very common shrub in thin forests or thickets. Distributed also in Hainan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan and Philippines.





本種的模式標本約於1850年由B. Seemann在香港島首先發現。為攀援藤本，長達數米，常攀援於樹上或石上，生於林中。花單性，雌雄異株。漿果球形。香港島、大帽山、馬鞍山及大東山也有紀錄。海南、廣東、廣西也有分布。香港還有華山蕓、山茛及假茛三種原生胡椒屬植物。

The type specimen was first collected by B. Seemann in Hong Kong Island around 1850. Climbers to several metres long, usually climbing on trees or rocks in thickets or forests. Plant dioecious. Flowers unisexual. Drupe globose. Recorded in Hong Kong Island, Tai Mo Shan, Ma On Shan and Sunset Peak. Distributed also in Hainan, Guangdong and Guangxi. Other native *Piper* species include *Piper cathayanum*, *P. hancei* and *P. sarmentosum*.



香港鷹爪花 *Artabotrys hongkongensis* Hance

番荔枝科 (Annonaceae)

發現年份 Discovered 1853

首次於1853年在香港島歌賦山由植物學家漢斯 (H. F. Hance) 發現，本種為攀援灌木，長達6米。花芳香，淡綠色或淡黃色，花瓣質厚，花期4至7月。果橢圓球形，乾時黑色。生於海拔300至500米的密林下或山谷陰濕處。柏架山、跑馬地、大潭、林村、粉嶺、上水、元朗及大嶼山等地有紀錄。海南、廣東、廣西、雲南、貴州、湖南及越南也有分布。同屬的鷹爪花為引進的園藝植物。



Botanist H. F. Hance first discovered this species in Mount Gough in 1853. Scandent shrubs, up to 6 m long. Flowers fragrant, pale green to pale yellow. Petals thick. Flowering from April to July. Fruit ellipsoidal, black when dry. Growing in dense forests or ravines at altitude of 300 to 500 m. Locally recorded in Mount Parker, Happy Valley, Tai Tam, Lam Tsuen, Fanling, Sheung Shui, Yuen Long and Lantau Island. Distributed also in Hainan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan, Guizhou, Hunan and Vietnam. *Artabotrys hexapetalus*, an introduced species, is commonly cultivated in gardens and rural areas locally.

獅子尾 (崖角藤) *Rhaphidophora hongkongensis* Schott

天南星科 (Araceae)

發現年份 Discovered 1860



本種的模式標本由漢斯 (H. F. Hance) 約於1860年採自香港島。為附生藤本植物，常攀附於樹林內的樹幹上或石岩上。莖稍肉質，圓柱形，生氣生根。葉厚，通常為鐮狀橢圓形。香港島、大帽山、梧桐寨、馬鞍山、新娘潭、青山、大嶼山等地有紀錄。福建、廣東、廣西、貴州、雲南。緬甸、老撾、越南、泰國、加里曼丹島也有分布。

H. F. Hance first collected the type specimen of this species in Hong Kong Island around 1860. Epiphytic lianas, climbing on trees or stone walls in forests. Stem fleshy and cylindrical, with air roots opposite to petiole. Leaves thick, usually falcate-elliptic. Recorded in Hong Kong Island, Tai Mo Shan, Ng Tung Chai, Ma On Shan, Bride's Pool, Castle Peak and Lantau Island. Distributed also in Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Kalimantan.



香港帶唇蘭 *Tainia hongkongensis* Rolfe

蘭科 (Orchidaceae)

發現年份 Discovered 1879

本種的模式標本於1879年由C. Wilford在香港島跑馬地的樹林首先發現。為地生草本植物，具卵球形的假鱗莖，葉大，長橢圓形，長達26厘米，具折扇狀脈。花葶出自假鱗莖基部，花黃綠色帶紫褐色斑點和條紋。

生於山坡林下或路旁。本種在香港常見。廣東和福建也有分布。香港還有帶唇蘭及南方帶唇蘭兩種原生帶唇蘭屬植物。



The type specimen of this species was first collected by Charles Wilford in 1879 in Happy Valley Woods, Hong Kong Island. Pseudobulbs ovoid, leaf oblong, up to 26 cm, with plicate veins. Flower scape emerging from pseudobulb base, flower yellowish green with purplish brown dots and stripes. Growing in forests on slopes and roadsides in mountains. This species is common in Hong Kong. Distributed in Guangdong and Fujian. Two further native *Tainia* species occurring in Hong Kong are *Tainia dunnii* and *T. ruybarrettoii*.

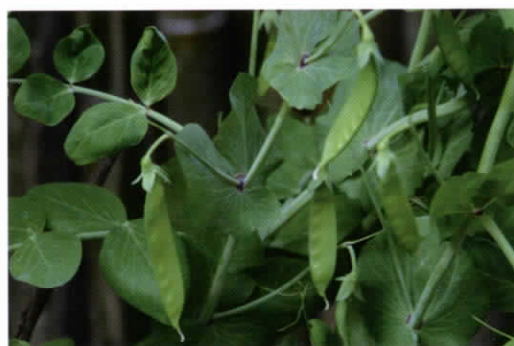
植物的學名

植物種類繁多，因各國的語言和文字不同，各地均有其慣用的植物名稱。即使同一植物，在各地區可有不同的名稱，例如我們熟悉的橙(學名 *Citrus sinensis*)在我國南方或稱橘子，在四川和浙江卻叫廣柑，湖南叫廣桔。植物名稱極不統一，就產生了上述同物異名的情況，這不僅對於植物分類造成混亂，而且對於國際學術交流造成困難。因此，國際植物學界早已應用統一的科學名稱，即“學名”(scientific names)。學名是用拉丁文來拼寫的；如果採用其他文字的語音命名時，也必須用拉丁字母拼音，使之拉丁化，以求歸一。國際通用的學名，基本採用了瑞典科學家林奈(Linnaeus)所倡用的“雙命名法”，即規定每個植物學名是由兩個拉丁詞所組成。



橙 *Citrus sinensis*

也許對植物學名感興趣的你會想到：為何學名用拉丁文？其實，自從對植物有較全面、較科學的認識以來，植物學家已慣用拉丁文為植物命名，因為拉丁文早於中世紀已是學者著書及交流的共同語文。現代的命名法規，為保持植物名稱的準確性、穩定性及連續性，因而沿用通行的拉丁文植物學名。學名也具有法律及科學地位，例如在《香港法例》第96章附例《林務規例》列明的植物名稱都以學名為準，中英文名祇作參考用。現代各國學者均遵守國際命名法規，在科學界的學報上，作者必須用同一拉丁文學名來指明同一種生物，這確保了準確性。



豌豆的莢果 Pods of *Pisum sativum*

時至今日，不少植物名詞的拉丁文字根仍出現於科學名詞（例如柑桔類 *Citrus* fruits 的屬名為 *Citrus*）。因學名的字詞有一定意義，不但方便記憶，亦有助學習和理解植物，例如，*Citrus sinensis* 指出產自中國(拉丁字根 *sino* 即指中國)的柑桔植物，*Pisum sativum* [豌豆] 的學名已說明它是栽培種(*sativus* 即栽種的)，*Callipteris esculentum* 是可供食用的(*esculentus* 即食用，但當然需正確鑑定才行!)，而 *Rheum officinale* 是具藥用價值的 (*officinalis* 解作藥房用的)。

根據《國際植物命名法規》，每個植物品種的學名均由兩個拉丁詞組成(雙命名法，即屬名 generic name 及種加詞 specific epithet)，標準全寫包括屬名、種加詞及命名人名；而屬名首字母需大寫，種加詞卻要全小寫；命名人名可根據國際標準列出；學名可用斜體字(或加底線)標明。例如香港的區徽洋紫荊，學名全寫是 *Bauhinia blakeana* Dunn。

有說瑞典的學生都懂得一百種該國常見植物的學名，除了秉承林奈的成就，也為學生學習科學打好根基。有興趣的讀者，不妨在欣賞植物之餘，也記憶一下植物學名(可瀏覽香港植物資料庫 <http://www.hkherbarium.net>)，也許你會有新的體會。

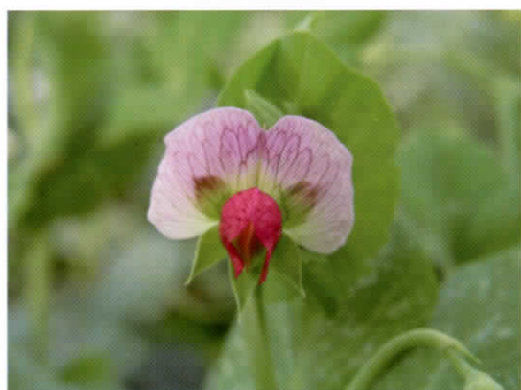
Scientific Names of Plants

Plant species are in rich diversity all over the world. Given the different language systems used, different countries or regions have their own commonly used plant names. Therefore, a plant may be assigned different names in different areas. For instance, in China, Sweet Orange (*Citrus sinensis*) is known as “juzi” (橘子) in the southern provinces, while it is called “guanggan” (廣柑) in Sichuan and Zhejiang, and “guangju”

(廣桔) in Hunan. The inconsistency of plant names not only causes confusion in plant taxonomy, but also hampers international academic exchange.

To avoid the above problems, the international botanical community has adopted scientific names, which are in Latin, as a global standard. The use of words in any other language should be Latinised first for the sake of consistency. Internationally accepted scientific names

basically follow the binominal nomenclature developed by Swedish scientist Linnaeus. As the word “binominal” suggests, a plant’s scientific name is made up of two Latin words.



豌豆的花朵 Flower of *Pisum sativum*

You may wonder why Latin is used in scientific names. In fact, it is a customary practice for botanists to name plants in Latin since a wealth of knowledge and understanding about plants has been built up in science. After all, Latin was the common language used among academics for their writings and exchange of ideas throughout the Middle Ages. To ensure the accuracy, consistency and continuity of plant names, modern nomenclature continues to use established botanical Latin terms. Scientific names also have legal and scientific status. For instance, for the plants specified under the Forestry Regulation, subsidiary legislation to Chapter 96 of the Laws of Hong Kong, only the scientific names are regarded as their proper names, and the English and Chinese common names are for reference only. Nowadays, all academics follow the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN). For any article published in a scientific journal, the author must use the same Latin scientific name to refer to the same species to ensure accuracy.

Today, many Latin roots of plant names can still be seen in scientific terminology. For instance, in the term “citrus fruits”, *Citrus* is the generic name of the species. The words used in scientific names have specific meanings and are therefore easy to remember and instrumental to the learning and understanding of plants. The following are some examples: *Citrus sinensis* (Sweet Orange) is a citrus plant from China (the Latin root “sino” means China); *Pisum sativum*

(garden pea) is a cultivated species (“sativus” means cultivated); *Callipteris esculentum* (vegetable fern) is edible (“esculentus” means edible, but a plant’s edibility must be properly examined before eating it); and *Rheum officinale* (rhubarb) has medicinal use (“officinale” means used in medicine).

According to the ICBN, the scientific name of a plant species comprises two Latin words (under the binominal nomenclature with the generic name and specific epithet as the two necessary components). The full standard format includes the generic name, specific epithet and authority. The first letter of the generic name is capitalised, while that of the specific epithet is not. The authority can be cited according to international practice. Scientific names are commonly printed in italic type or underlined. For example, the full scientific name of Bauhinia, used as Hong Kong’s regional emblem, is *Bauhinia blakeana* Dunn.



洋紫荊 *Bauhinia blakeana*

It is said that every Swedish student knows the scientific names of one hundred plant species commonly found in their country. In this good tradition of paying tribute to Linnaeus, these students are provided with a solid foundation to learn science. When appreciating the beauty of the botanical world, you might try to memorise the scientific names of some of the species (available from the Hong Kong Plant Database at <http://www.hkherbarium.net>). Perhaps you will gain a new understanding of them.



本種於1903年由德邱 (W. J. Tutcher) 在香港島柏架山首先發現。生於低地闊葉林中，為常綠喬木，高可達25米，花白色，花瓣5片，蒴果近球形。扯旗山、柏架山、鶴咀、馬鞍山及梧桐寨有紀錄。海南、廣東、廣西及雲南也有分布。

W. J. Tutcher first collected this species in 1903 from Mount Parker, Hong Kong Island. Growing in lowland broad-leaved evergreen forests. Evergreen trees, up to 25 m high. Flowers white, with 5 petals. Capsule subglobose. Recorded in Victoria Peak, Mt. Parker, Cape D'Aguilar, Ma On Shan and Ng Tung Chai. Distributed also in Hainan, Guangdong, Guangxi and Yunnan.



香港鳳仙 *Impatiens hongkongensis* Grey-Wilson

鳳仙花科 (Balsaminaceae)

發現年份 Discovered 1925

Grey-Wilson於1978年根據香港的標本發表為新種，本種於1925年由L. Gibbs在大埔首先發現，至今僅在香港及深圳有紀錄。本種為多年生草本，高達60厘米，花大，淡黃色，喉部膨大，具紅色或紫紅色斑點。生於海拔150至210米的山谷或河邊。同屬的華鳳仙在香港郊野常見，花紅色。



Grey-Wilson first described this new species in 1978, based on a specimen collected by Mr. L. Gibbs who first discovered this species in Tai Po in 1925. This species is known only from Hong Kong and Shenzhen. Perennial herbs, up to 60 cm. Flowers large, pale yellow, with red or reddish-purple blotches at throat. Growing along stream beds and in ravines, at altitude of 150 to 210 m. A local species commonly seen in rural areas is *Impatiens chinensis*, featuring red flowers.

香港綬草 *Spiranthes hongkongensis* S. Y. Hu & Barretto

蘭科 (Orchidaceae)

發現年份 Discovered 1976

本種由胡秀英博士及白理桃女士在香港首先發現，在1976年發表。地生草本植物，高13至30厘米，葉寬線形，花細小多毛，紫紅色、粉紅色或白色。生於山坡林下、灌叢下、草地中。慈雲山、城門、西貢、大嶼山、南丫島有紀錄。廣東、貴州、雲南、浙江、福建、山東。日本、澳大利亞也有分布。同屬的綬草在香港常見，花無毛，早於十九世紀初在華南已有紀錄。

The species was first described by its discoverers S. Y. Hu and G. Barretto in 1976. Plants 13 to 30 cm tall. Leaves indistinctly petiolate. Flowers small and hairy, petals purplish red, pink, or white. Growing in forests or shrubs, wet grasslands. Recorded in Tsz Wan Shan, Shing Mun, Sai Kung, Lantau Island and Lamma Island. Distributed in Guangdong, Guizhou, Yunnan, Zhejiang, Fujian, Shandong, Japan and Australia. *Spiranthes sinensis*, a species with glabrous flowers and known from South China as early as 1800s, is common in Hong Kong.



香港細辛 *Asarum hongkongense* S. M. Hwang & T. P. Wong-Siu

馬兜鈴科 (Aristolochiaceae)

發現年份 Discovered 1988



本種為香港特有的稀有植物，是細辛屬分布於香港的唯一代表，於1988年在大嶼山由鄒平先生首先發現，後經華南植物研究所的黃淑美教授及香港植物標本室的黃蕭德萍聯合發表為新種。為多年生草本植物，具根狀莖。葉卵狀心形，上面光亮，葉柄很長。花鐘狀，紫綠色，4至7月開花。生於海拔500至800米的林下。

This rare endemic species was first discovered by Mr. Chow Ping in 1988 in Lantau Island with one small wild population, and later published as a new species by Prof. S. M. Hwang of South China Institute of Botany and Ms. T.P. Wong-Siu of Hong Kong Herbarium. It is the only representative of the genus *Asarum* in Hong Kong. Perennial herbs, with long prostrate rhizomes. Leaves ovate-heart-shaped, glossy above, petioles very long. Flowers companulate, purplish green. Flowering from April to July. Growing in thickets or thin forests, at altitudes of 500 to 800 m.



香港蛇菰 *Balanophora hongkongensis* K. M. Lau, N. H. Li & S. Y. Hu

蛇菰科 (Balanophoraceae)

發現年份 Discovered 1991

本種為香港特有種，早於1991年在新界青山發現，經劉啟文、李甯漢及胡秀英多年研究，於2003年確定為世界新種。為草本寄生植物，已證實缺葉藤 (*Bauhinia championii*) 是寄主之一，雌雄異株，雌、雄植株互相靠近生長。蛇菰祇在開花時才較易見到，這時整株植物都呈橙紅色。

This endemic species was first discovered in Castle Peak in 1991. After many years of study, botanists K. M. Lau, N. H. Li, and S. Y. Hu in 2003 confirmed it a species new to science. A flowering herb parasitic on other plants, with *Bauhinia championii* being one of the confirmed host. Dioecious, the staminate and carpellate plants grow in close proximity to each other. Flowering plants are orange-red and thus becoming conspicuous.



香港秋海棠 *Begonia hongkongensis* F. W. Xing

秋海棠科 (Begoniaceae)

發現年份 Discovered 1997



本種為香港特有種，於1997年在屯門發現。為草本植物，分雌雄花，白色。生於潮濕的生境。本港尚有四種秋海棠，花粉紅色或白色。

This endemic species was first discovered in Tuen Mun in 1997. A flowering dioecious herb with white flowers. Growing in wet places. Four other species of *Begonia* are also known from Hong Kong with pink or white flowers.

本種為香港特有種，於2005年在大帽山發現。喬木，高達20米；花小，特徵是它的花被片及能育雄蕊均為6數；果球形，外被鏽褐色鱗秕，生於林中。油果樟在香港僅此一種。

This endemic species was first discovered in Tai Mo Shan in 2005. Tree to 20m tall. Distinguished by its small flowers with 6 perianth-lobes and fertile stamens. Fruit globular, rusty-scurfy outside. Growing in forests. The only species of *Syndiclis* known in Hong Kong.



新種植物如何取名？

自分類學之父林奈那時起，植物學家通常用外形特徵來替新種取名，作為種加詞(例如秋茄 *Kandelia obovata*，因它的葉是倒卵形 *obovate*)；也有用人命名，以表揚發現者、採集者(例如常綠臭椿 *Ailanthus fordii* 是由 Charles Ford 發現)或紀念那些對植物研究有貢獻的重要人士(例如洋紫荊 *Bauhinia blakeana*，紀念前港督卜力爵士及夫人對香港植物園的貢獻；而秀英竹 *Arundinaria shiuyingiana* 則表揚胡秀英博士對香港植物研究的貢獻)。

此外，植物學家也可根據某種植物的發現地點或它的分布區域，為該種植物命名。例如香港大沙葉 (*Pavetta hongkongensis*) 學名的種加詞意即產自香港，因它首先在香港發現，縱使後來在海南、廣東、廣西、雲南及菲律賓都有紀錄。同樣地，朴樹 (*Celtis sinensis*) 的種加詞意即產自中國，這種原生植物亦祇分布中國境內。隨著新分布點的發現，這些以地理名稱命名的種類或許不再作為該地區的特有種，但其名稱仍代表著發現時某些有趣的事蹟，因而別具意義。

文：葉國樑、梁智穎、蘇培生(香港植物標本室)
text: K. L. Yip, C. W. Leung, P. S. So (Hong Kong Herbarium)
圖：香港植物標本室
photos: Hong Kong Herbarium

How is a New Plant Species Named?

Ever since Linnaeus, botanists commonly form new scientific names by employing prominent morphological features of a plant species. The specific epithet of *Kandelia obovata*, for instance, indicates that the leaves of the species are obovate in shape. Plants could also be named after its discoverers and collectors (for example, *Ailanthus fordii* was first discovered by Charles Ford) as well as those contributed to botanical studies (*Bauhinia blakeana* was named after the former Governor Sir Henry and Lady Blake for their contributions and support to the Hong Kong Botanical Garden, whereas *Arundinaria shiuyingiana* was named in honour of Prof. Shiu-ying Hu for her contribution to the study of Hong Kong flora).

Moreover, botanists also name species after the place of its first discovery or the then known range of its distribution. For instance, *Pavetta hongkongensis* (the specific epithet means from Hong Kong) was first discovered in Hong Kong, although it was later known from Hainan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan and the Philippines. *Celtis sinensis* (Chinese Hackberry), a native plant of China with a natural distribution within the country, the specific epithet is derived from the word "sino", meaning from China. Although, with new discoveries in their distribution, such species may be no longer considered endemic to the geographical areas where they were first discovered, those names with the specific epithet referring to a location or region may have interesting stories behind their discoveries.