



城门標本林
SHING MUN ARBORETUM

Shing Mun Arboretum

A base for flora conservation
Your classroom in nature!

The Shing Mun Arboretum occupies a total area of four hectares of abandoned terraced fields. Planting of representative native species began in the early 1970s, as the area provides suitable conditions for developing into an arboretum. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) planted many specimens of rare plants in the Arboretum. Under the care and management of AFCD, the Arboretum is now a base for flora conservation in Hong Kong. Besides the wild-occurring counterparts, the rare plants conserved in the Arboretum ensure the survival of the species in Hong Kong. They also serve as flag species for ex-situ conservation and education. The Arboretum also serves to display the representative living specimens of native plants. Plant specimens on display in the Arboretum are clearly labelled with scientific name, Chinese and English names. Specially designed plaques also introduce representative species in details. In addition to looking up botanical references in libraries or examining specimens in herbaria, visitors are encouraged to observe and learn from the living collections in the Arboretum. Currently, the Arboretum maintains about 300 species of native plants representative of Hong Kong and South China.

Special Topics of Plants

The Shing Mun Arboretum provides the following special topics of plants for learning and appreciation: (names in brown colour represent those species described overleaf)

1 Plants First Discovered in Hong Kong [Terrace L]

(e.g. *Rhodoleia championii*, *Arundinaria shuiyingiana*, *Illicium dunnianum*; *Croton hancei*)

In the early 1800s, botanists started plants exploration in Hong Kong and described many species new to science (these were indeed first discoveries worldwide).

2 Local Rare and Protected Plants

(e.g. *Michelia mudiae*, *Enkianthus quinqueflorus*, *Camellia granthamiana* and *Rhododendron* species)

The collections displayed here include some attractive flowering species which are protected under the Forestry Regulations (Cap. 96 sub. leg.) from illegal exploitations.

3 Climbing Plant Collection

(e.g. *Illigeria celebica* and *Aristolochia* species)

Climbing plants do not have a prominent trunk and canopy. Their leaves may only appear on the top of trees, and thus we may not be aware of our native climbing plants. In fact, many climbing plants are noteworthy for the beauty of its blossoms, and also for their roles as host plants of some rare butterflies.



4 Gymnosperms [Terrace D]

(e.g. *Keteleeria fortunei*, *Amentotaxus argotaenia*)

Gymnosperms produce naked seeds borne on the surface of the megasporophyll (Cone scale or carpel). The wood (xylem) lacks vessels. Living gymnosperms include Cycas, Ginkgo, Conifers and Gnetum.



5 Pteridophytes [Terrace M]

(e.g. *Brainea insignis*, *Cibotium barometz*)

Ferns are non-flowering vascular plants, ranging from small herbs to large tree-ferns. They fill niches unsuitable for other plants to grow. They also provide food for herbivores such as moths. Most of them possess horizontal stems and shallow roots, which help prevent soil erosion.



6 The Bamboo Garden

(e.g. *Arundinaria amabilis* and *Arundinaria shuiyingiana*)

Bamboos are pre-dominantly woody perennials of the Grass Family. Unlike tree trunks which increase in diameter through secondary thickenings, culms of bamboos only increase in length. About 30 species of bamboos are on display.

7 The Oak Family (Fagaceae) [Terrace B]

The Fagaceae is considered as a dominant family of the original forests in Hong Kong. *Cyclobalanopsis*, *Lithocarpus* and *Castanopsis* species are local examples. All of them bear the characteristic fruit of one-seeded nut subtended or enveloped by a cup (acorns). The edible chestnut is an example.



8 The Spurge family (Euphorbiaceae) [Terrace B]

Species of this family are commonly trees, shrubs or herbs producing white latex. One to two glands are usually found at the base of each leaf. Locally, there are some interesting species, such as the endemic species *Croton hancei*, a red-leaf tree in Autumn *Sapium discolor*, and the wood-side understorey plant *Glochidion philippicum*.

9 The Laurel Family (Lauraceae) [Terrace C]

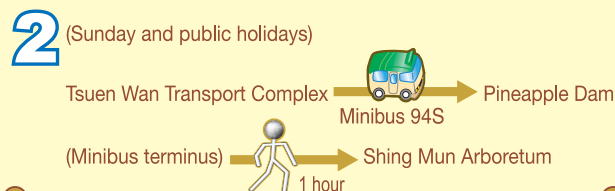
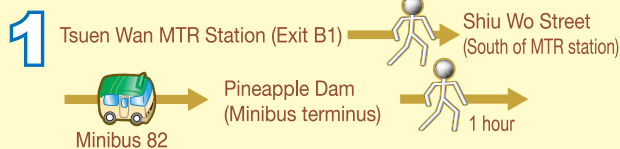
The Lauraceae is also considered as a dominant family of the original forests in Hong Kong. Lauraceae species produce aromatic oils of characteristic fragrance. The scent is noticeable when leaves are crushed.



10 Seashore Plants [Terrace I]

Coastal plants usually feature special adaptations for survival. Some species produce floating fruits to disperse their seeds by water. Some bear leaves that are leathery or wax-covered. Do you know why?

How to get there?



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Suggested Periods for Appreciation

Scientific Name	Chinese Name	Periods
<i>Angiopteris fokiensis</i>	福建蓮座蕨	Whole year
<i>Ailanthus fordii</i>	常綠臭椿(福氏臭椿)	Winter, Spring
<i>Alsophila spinulosa</i>	刺桫欏	Whole year
<i>Amentotaxus argotaenia</i>	穗花杉	Autumn
<i>Aquilaria sinensis</i>	土沉香(牙香樹)	Summer
<i>Aristolochia tagala</i>	印度馬兜鈴(耳葉馬兜鈴)	Autumn, Winter
<i>Artocarpus hypargyreus</i>	白桂木	Summer
<i>Arundinaria shuiyingiana</i>	秀英竹	Whole year
<i>Brainea insignis</i>	蘇鐵蕨	Whole year
<i>Camellia species</i>	各種茶花	Autumn, Winter
<i>Cibotium barometz</i>	金毛狗	Whole year
<i>Croton hancei</i>	香港巴豆	Summer
<i>Dendrobenthamia hongkongensis</i>	香港四照花	Summer
<i>Enkianthus quinqueflorus</i>	吊鐘	Spring
<i>Exbucklandia tonkinensis</i>	大果馬蹄荷	Spring, Summer
<i>Illicium dunnianum</i>	紅花八角(鄧氏八角)	Spring, Summer
<i>Illigera celebica</i>	寬藥青藤	Summer, Autumn
<i>Keteleeria fortunei</i>	油杉	Autumn, Winter
<i>Machilus wangchiana</i>	信宜潤楠(嘉道理楠)	Winter, Spring
<i>Michelia maudiae</i>	深山含笑(莫氏含笑)	Spring
<i>Mucuna championii</i>	港油麻藤(香港蠶豆)	Summer, Autumn
<i>Popowia pisocarpa</i>	嘉陵花	Autumn, Winter
<i>Rhododendron species</i>	各種杜鵑	Spring
<i>Rhodoleia championii</i>	紅花荷(紅苞木)	Spring
<i>Tetrathyrium subcordatum</i>	四藥門花	Summer, Autumn



Camellia hongkongensis

香港茶

Theaceae(山茶科)

The large and red flowers of this evergreen tree make it a very charming ornamental plant. The only native *Camellia* bearing red flowers, this species was first discovered in 1849 in a ravine in Victoria Peak and only three individuals were found at that time. It was subsequently found in several localities in Hong Kong Island as well as in Guangdong Province. The species is protected under the Forestry Regulations.

Keteleeria fortunei

油杉

Pinaceae(松科)

As a relic species endemic to China (wild populations are known in Stanley, Hong Kong Island along seashore) and northern Vietnam, it is of great scientific importance for floristic studies of south China. A tree species up to 30 m, bears candle-like cylindrical cones which turns brown at maturity. The plant is very suitable for cultivation as an ornamental and its wood can be used for construction and making furniture. The species is protected under the Forestry Regulations and also recorded in the China Plant Red Data Book.



Camellia crapnelliana
紅皮糙果茶(克氏茶)

Theaceae(山茶科)

The species was first collected in 1903 and described by W. J. Tutcher from Mount Parker, Hong Kong. A tree up to 7 m tall, its red bark and large white flowers make it an attractive ornamental plant. Rough on surface, its fruit is the largest amongst local species of *Camellia*. Flowering in autumn and fruiting in winter. This species is listed under the Forestry Regulations and also recorded in the China Plant Red Data Book.



Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Flora Conservation Section

Web Sites : <http://www.afcd.gov.hk>
<http://www.hkherbarium.net>

Some Rare and Precious Plants in Shing Mun Arboretum

Camellia granthamiana 大苞山茶 (葛量洪茶)

Theaceae (山茶科)

The large white flowers, which bloom in autumn, make this species an attractive ornamental plant. Its leaf veins are deeply impressed into the blade. The species was first discovered in a ravine of Tai Mo Shan in 1955 and only one individual was found at that time. Since then, a few more wild populations were found in Ma On Shan and also in Guangdong. The species is protected under the Forestry Regulations and also recorded in the China Plant Red Data Book.



Rhododendron hongkongense 香港杜鵑

Ericaceae (杜鵑花科)

Evergreen shrubs, with oblanceolate leaves crowded on top of branches. Flowers are white or pinkish, with the upper lobes tinged with purplish-blue blotches inside. Flowering in April. The beautiful species was first collected and described from Hong Kong Island between 1847 and 1850, but formally named as a new species in 1930 using "*hongkongense*" as its specific epithet. The species is listed under the Forestry Regulations for protection.



Illigera celebica 寬藥青藤

Hernandiaceae (蓮葉桐科)

This climbing vine is usually found in lowland forests and shrublands. Heart-shaped leaflets are in groups of three; each white flower has five petals; fruits are four-winged. *Illigera* is the larval food plant for the butterfly White Dragontail (*Lamproptera curius*). The plant species has been protected under the Forestry Regulations.



Rhodoleia championii 紅花荷 (紅苞木)

Hamamelidaceae (金縷梅科)

This median tree species was first discovered in a piece of woodland behind the Little Hong Kong (now Aberdeen) in 1849 in Hong Kong. The bell-like pseudanthial heads compose of red flowers, usually appear from late winter to early spring, making this species a very attractive ornamental plant. The species is protected under the Forestry Regulations.



Croton hancei 香港巴豆

Euphorbiaceae (大戟科)

An endemic shrub or bush distinguished by star-shaped hairs covering its young shoots and flower stalks, the species was not seen since its first discovery in Hong Kong Island around 1850, until 1997 when staff of AFCD re-discovered it in Tsing Yi Island. Its restricted distribution and phytogeography are of special botanical interests.



Arundinaria shiuyingiana 秀英竹

Poaceae / Gramineae (禾本科)

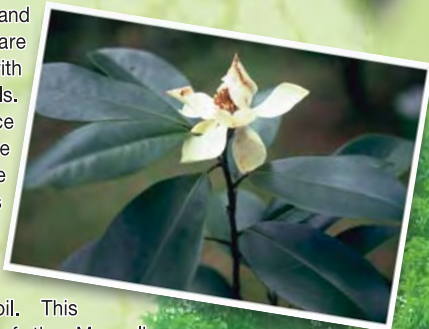
First discovered in Eagle's Nest in 1981, this endemic species is of special botanical interest. It was named after Dr. Shiu-ying Hu to honour her contributions to the study of Hong Kong flora. The elegant culms and bright green leaves make it a charming ornamental bamboo. The species sprouts in spring and features purple spots at young nodes.



Michelia maudiae 深山含笑

Magnoliaceae (木蘭科)

Evergreen trees to 20 m tall. Buds, young twigs, lower surfaces of leaves, and bracts are covered with white powder. Leaves are leathery, oblong-elliptic, adaxially dark green and glossy. Flowers are solitary and axillary with nine pure white tepals. The species produce spicate aggregate fruits. Its large, white and fragrant flowers make it an attractive ornamental plant and a source for extracting essential oil. This and other species of the Magnoliaceae are protected under the Forestry Regulations.



Brainea insignis

蘇鐵蕨

Blechnaceae (烏毛蕨科)

An attractive large fern, at first glance it looks like a plant of Cycad. Leaves tufted; simply pinnate; pinnae numerous, alternate, linear-lanceolate, margin finely toothed; fertile lamina similar to sterile ones, but somewhat reduced, lower surface almost entirely covered with sporangia. The species is usually found within woodlands or along their margins and also on grassy hillslopes. Its trunk is erect and bears graceful fronds suitable for ornamental use.



Aquilaria sinensis

土沉香 (牙香樹、白木香)

Thymelaeaceae (瑞香科)

Aquilaria is an evergreen tree with dense foliage and crown. Flowers yellowish green, fragrant. Graceful in appearance as an ornamental plant, its fruits are woody obovate capsules hanging from the branches. This precious medicinal plant is a source of the fragrant wood "Chen Xiang", which is formed under pathological conditions. Although *Aquilaria* has been recorded in the China Plant Red Data Book, the species is common in lowland forests in Hong Kong.



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