

## MEDIA FACTSHEET

### Habitat enhancement efforts at Pulau Ubin

#### Reforestation efforts at Tanjong Tajam, Pulau Ubin

100 native trees were planted at Tanjong Tajam, Pulau Ubin as part of habitat enhancement efforts on 23 August 2014. Minister of State for National Development, Desmond Lee, planted a *Pteleocarpa lamponga*.



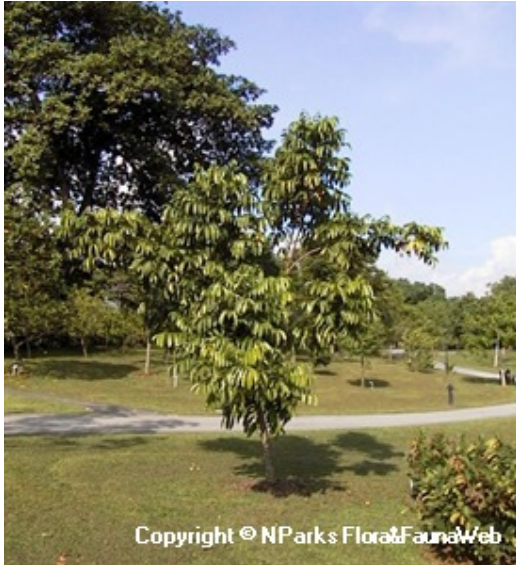
#### **About the *Pteleocarpa lamponga***

The *Pteleocarpa lamponga* is a medium-sized tree with a bushy, open crown that can grow to more than 30m tall. Its leaves have a leathery texture. Bright yellow flowers are found in clusters at the ends of leafy twigs. Native to Singapore, and also found in Thailand, Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo, the *Pteleocarpa lamponga* is presumed to be extinct in the wild in Singapore.



***Aphanamixis polystachya***

(Common names: Pasak Lingga, Amoora, Cikih, Kasai Paya, Kulim Burung)



Growing up to 20m tall, the leaves of the *Aphanamixis polystachya* are oblong and leathery. Its sweetly scented flowers are cream, yellow or bronze in colour. Oil extracted from its seeds have medicinal properties and used externally for rheumatism. However, its fruits are poisonous. The *Aphanamixis polystachya* is classified as endangered in Singapore.

***Erythroxylum cuneatum***

(Common names: Wild Cocaine, Baka, Beluntas Bukit, Cinatamula, Inai Inai, Mahang Wangi, Medang Lenggundi, Medang Wangi)

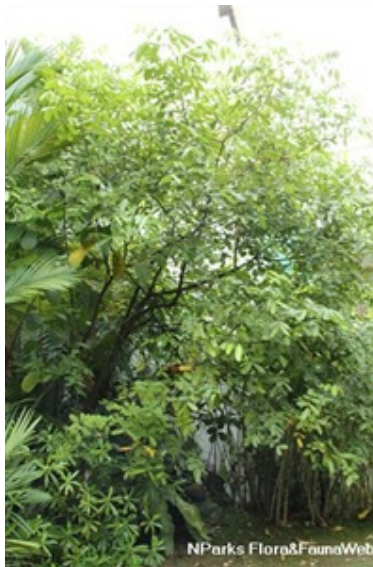




Growing up to 45m tall, the *Erythroxylum cuneatum* Has flattened green twigs. Its tiny flowers grow in clusters of 1-8, and are white to light green in colour. Its fruits are bright red when ripe, and are eaten by mammals and porcupines. The *Erythroxylum cuneatum* is classified as common in Singapore and can be found in Changi, Pulau Tekong, Pulau Ubin and St John's Island. An *Erythroxylum cuneatum* found in Changi is listed as a Heritage Tree.

***Guioa pleuropteris***

(Common names: Kelentit Nyamuk, Kelentit Nyamuk Laut, Medang Putih, Nyamuk, Pena-Pena, Penyamuk, Pokok Serawan Burung, Sempayan Ular, Senyamuk, Sugi Damar)



Growing up to 30m tall, the leaves of the *Guioa pleuropteris* are covered with hair and small bumps on the underside. Its fragrant white flowers grow in clusters of 2–5. Its red coloured fruits, and seeds, are eaten and dispersed by birds. The *Guioa pleuropteris* is classified as vulnerable in Singapore, and can be found on several offshore islands like Big Sister Island , Pulau Ubin and Pulau Tekong.

***Ilex cymosa***

(Common names: Marsh Holly, Mensirah, Mesirah, Timah-timah)



The evergreen *Ilex cymosa* grows up to 30m tall, and its bark becomes rougher and fissures as it grows older. Its fleshy fruits are berries that ripen from red, to purple, to black. Caterpillars of the Studded Sergeant butterfly (*Athyma asura*), a rare species of butterfly in Singapore, feed on the *Ilex cymosa*. Its berries are also eaten by birds. The *Ilex cymosa* is classified as common in Singapore.

***Knema globularia***

(Common names: Seashore Nutmeg, Small-Leaved Nutmeg, Gerahan, Merbatu Kechil, Penarahan Padi, Cendarah Padi)



Growing up to 24m tall, the flowers of the *Knema globularia* are covered with brown woolly

hair outside, and cream or yellowish inside. Its fruits, eaten by the Oriental Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) are covered initially with brownish hairs that are easily rubbed off, and have rose-red flesh covering the seed. Classified as critically endangered in Singapore, the *Knema globularia* can be found in Changi, Lazarus Island, Pulau Pawai and Pulau Ubin.

***Pouteria obovata***

(Common names: Sea Gutta, Menasi, Northern Yellow Boxwood, Yellow Teak, Black Ash, Pulau Dammar, Misi, Nyatoh Laut)



The *Pouteria obovata* is a small or medium-sized tree that grows up to 28m tall. It has a coppery-golden appearance as its leaves are a hairy reddish-brown on the underside, while they are a hairless glossy dark-green above. Its leaves also have medicinal properties and are used for aches and pains. The *Pouteria obovata* is classified as vulnerable in Singapore.

***Rhodamnia cinerea***

(Common names: Silver Back Tree, Mempoyan, Poyan, Empoyan, Tempoyai, Mengkoyan)





The *Rhodamnia cinerea* is a small evergreen tree that grows up to 15m tall. Its leaves look silvery or grey on the underside due to the minute hairs. Its flowers white flowers with a reddish centre are very fragrant, and attract bees. It has edible, fleshy fruits, and its seeds are dispersed by bats, birds, and squirrels. The *Rhodamnia cinerea* is classified as common in Singapore.

### ***Streblus elongatus***

(Common names: Tempinis, Tampines Tree, Tamping, Kepinis)



Growing up to 35m tall, the flowers of the *Streblus elongatus* are found on 3–20 cm long flower clusters which develop at the leaf axils, and are pollinated by insects. The eastern Tampines housing estate in Singapore is named after this tree, due to its abundance in that area in the past. Classified as vulnerable in Singapore, two individual *Streblus elongatus* are listed as Heritage Trees, with one on St John's Island, and the other at Changi.

***Syzygium syzygioides***

(Common name: Kelat Hitam)



Growing up to 30m tall, its thin, leathery leaf blades are oval shaped. Its white flowers are pollinated by insects, and fleshy fruits that are dark red to purplish black when ripe are eaten by birds. Classified as vulnerable in Singapore, one individual *Syzygium syzygioides* is listed as a Heritage Tree, and can be found in Changi.

***Tristaniopsis whiteana***

(Common name: River Tristania, Pelawan, Selunchor, Cancal, Cangal, Kayu Malu)



Growing up to 24m tall, the bark of the *Tristaniopsis whiteana* is orange, grey, and white in colour. Its leaves are leathery and tiny white flowers are borne on branched flowering shoots. Its flowers are pollinated by insects. The *Tristaniopsis whiteana* is listed as endangered in Singapore.

### **Pulau Ubin – A treasure trove of biodiversity**

Ubin is a hotspot for nature lovers. It has a variety of habitats like mangroves, rocky and sandy shores, coastal and secondary forests, abandoned rubber and coconut plantations, fruit orchards, scrubland and freshwater ponds. The island supports a rich diversity of wildlife including:

- Over 700 native species of plants
- 215 species of birds
- Over 175 species of butterflies
- Over 50 species of dragonflies and damselflies
- 40 species of reptiles
- 30 species of mammals
- Over 500 species of marine life

The island is a key sanctuary for many endangered species, some of which are not even found on mainland Singapore. Examples include:

- Greater Mousedeer (*Tragulus napu*)
- Ashy Roundleaf Bat (*Hipposideros cineraceus*)
- Lesser False Vampire (*Megaderma spasma*)
- Oriental Small-clawed Otter (*Aonyx cinerea*)
- Mangrove Pitta (*Pitta megarhyncha*)
- Dwarf Crow (*Euploea tulliolus ledereri*)
- Variable Featherlegs (*Copera vittata*)
- Jamba (*Neuwiedia veratrifolia*)
- Seashore Nutmeg (*Knema globularia*)
- Collared Fig (*Ficus crassiramea*)

Pulau Ubin hosts the largest mangrove areas in Singapore and almost all true mangrove plant species known to Singapore can be found here, including the rarest species in the world, the “Eye of the Crocodile”.





One of Pulau Ubin's key attractions is Chek Jawa Wetlands, located on the eastern coast of the island. It has one of Singapore's richest ecosystems, where six major habitats meet and mix. Each habitat is home to an abundance of plants and animals.