

# Comparison of Similar Looking Plants

*Gardenia carinata*, *Gardenia mutabilis* and *Gardenia tubifera*



**Scientific name:** *Gardenia carinata*  
**Common name:** Golden Gardenia  
**Family name:** Rubiaceae  
**Origin:** Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia










**Scientific name:** *Gardenia mutabilis*  
**Common name:** -  
**Family name:** Rubiaceae  
**Origin:** South Philippines to Sulawesi  
**Conservation Status:** Non-native



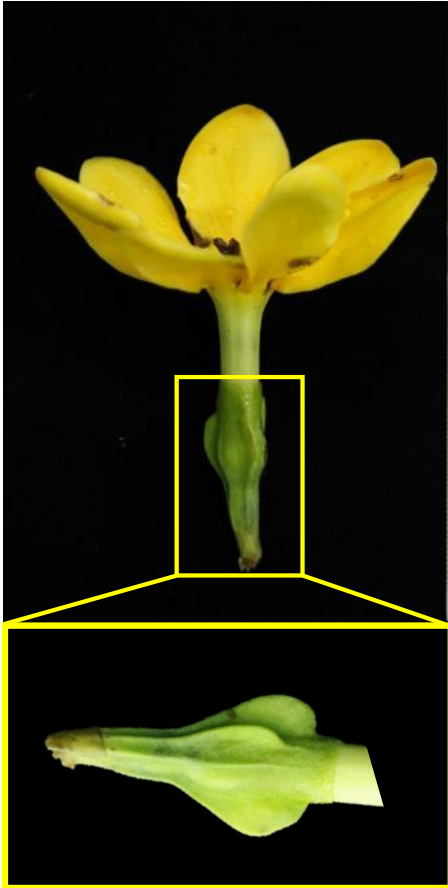

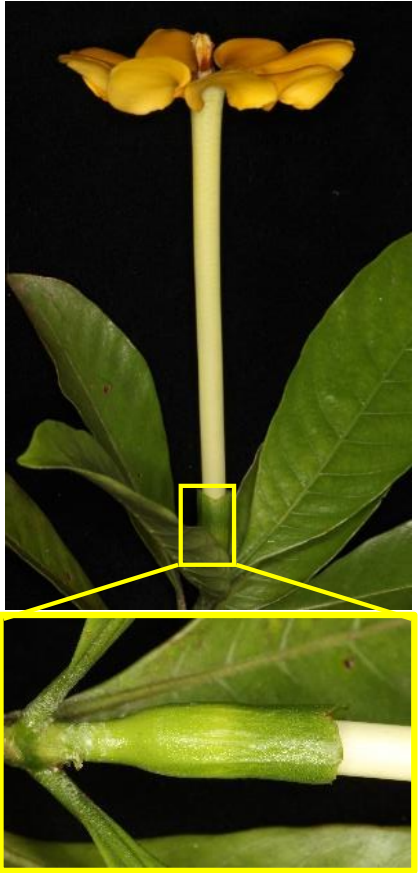
**Scientific name:** *Gardenia tubifera*  
**Common name:** Water Gardenia  
**Family name:** Rubiaceae  
**Origin:** Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo  
**Conservation Status:** Native to Singapore (Presumed Nationally Extinct)

# Character comparison

	<i>Gardenia carinata</i>	<i>Gardenia mutabilis</i>	<i>Gardenia tubifera</i>
Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small tree to 15 m tall</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shrub or small tree, up to 5 m tall</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small tree, often 8-15 m tall</li> </ul> 

Foliage	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p><i>G. carinata</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaves elliptic to obovate with prominent venation, up to 30 cm long</li> <li>• Leaf base attenuate</li> <li>• Upper surface smooth, underneath hairy</li> </ul> </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p><i>G. mutabilis</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaves elliptic, 5-15 cm long</li> <li>• Leaf base cuneate</li> <li>• Smooth on both sides</li> </ul> </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"> <p><i>G. tubifera</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaves obovate to oblanceolate, 12-16 cm long</li> <li>• Leaf base attenuate</li> <li>• Smooth on both sides</li> </ul> </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  <span style="margin-left: 20px;">15 cm</span> </div>		
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## Character comparison

	<i>Gardenia carinata</i>	<i>Gardenia mutabilis</i>	<i>Gardenia tubifera</i>
Flower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6-8 lobes</li> <li>• Corolla tube about 5 cm long</li> <li>• Calyx tube 5 lobed, middle marked with 5 strong keels, about 2.5 cm long</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7-8 lobes</li> <li>• Corolla tube about 6-10 cm long, slender</li> <li>• Calyx tube slightly ridged, tightly sheathing the corolla tube, 0.6-1.7 cm long</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6-9 lobes</li> <li>• Corolla tube variable in length, 2.5-14 cm long</li> <li>• Calyx tube smooth, loosely sheathing the corolla tube, truncate, 0.8-3.5 cm long</li> </ul> 

## References

- Govaerts, R. (2003). World Checklist of Selected Plant Families Database in ACCESS: 1-216203. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
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- Roxbergh, W. (1824). Flora Indica Vol 2: 560.
- Turner, I.M. (1995 publ. 1997). A catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Malaya. Gardens' Bulletin Singapore 47(2): 347 -655.
- Wong, K.M. (1982). Notes on Gardenia and Acranthera (Rubiaceae) from Pennisular Malaysia, Gardens Bulletin Vol 35 Part 1: 21-31.
- Wong, K.M. & Low, Y. W. (2011). A revision of Philippine Gardenia (Rubiaceae). Edinburgh J. Bot. 68: 11-32.

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