

# Comparison of Similar Looking Plants

## *Tarenna fragrans* & *Tarenna odorata*



**Scientific name:**

*Tarenna fragrans* (Blume) Koord. & Valeton

**Family name:** Rubiaceae

**Origin:** India, Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Phillipines

**Status:** Native (EN)



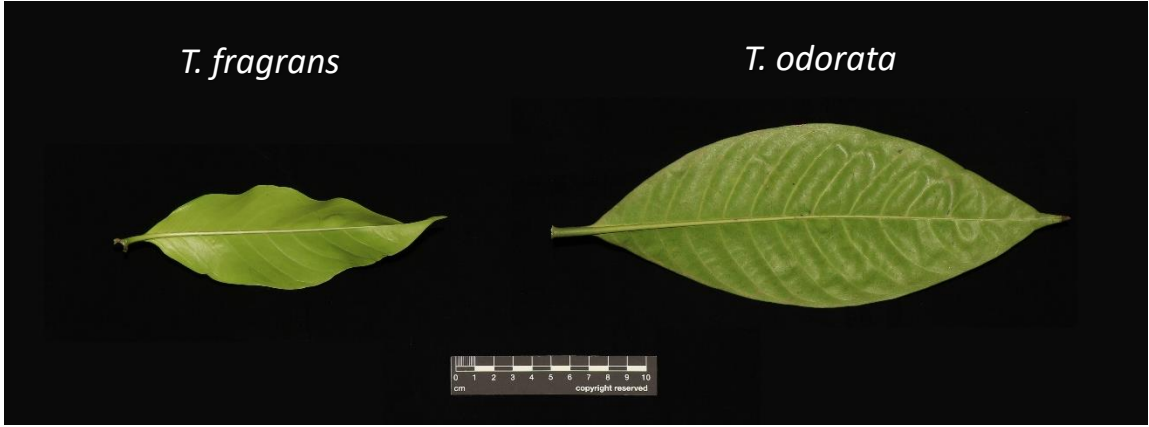




**Scientific name:**

*Tarenna odorata* (Roxb.) B.L.Rob.

**Family name:** Rubiaceae

**Origin:** Assam, Bangladesh, Malaya

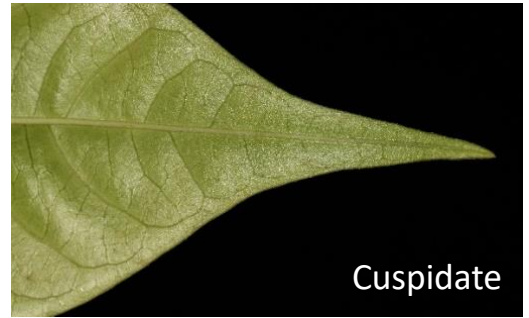
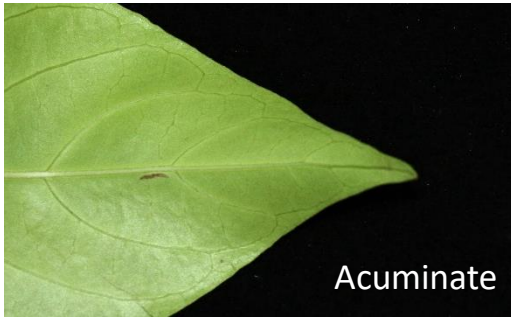
**Status:** Native (CR)

	<i>Tarennia fragrans</i>	<i>Tarennia odorata</i>
<b>Habitat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowland forest, at swampy sites or along riverbanks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowland forests including swampy ground</li> </ul>
<b>Form</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A shrub to small tree up to 5 m.</li> <li>• Angular stems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A shrub to small tree up to 2 m.</li> <li>• Angular stems</li> </ul>
<b>Leaves</b>	 <p>The image shows two leaves side-by-side against a black background. On the left is a smaller, more ovate leaf labeled <i>T. fragrans</i>. On the right is a larger, more elliptical leaf labeled <i>T. odorata</i>. A scale bar at the bottom indicates 10 cm.</p>	
	 <p>Front</p>	 <p>Front</p>
	 <p>Underside</p>	 <p>Underside</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leathery</li> <li>• Elliptic to spoon-shaped</li> <li>• <b>Smaller leaf size:</b> 8 – 13.5 cm wide by 2 – 6 cm long</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leathery</li> <li>• Elliptic, spoon to egg-shaped</li> <li>• <b>Larger leaf size:</b> 14 – 35 cm wide by 4.5 – 13 cm long</li> </ul>

*Tarennia fragrans*

*Tarennia odorata*

**Leaves**  
(leaf tip & base)



- **Broad pointed tip (Acuminate)**
- **Narrowing base (Cuneate)**

- **Tail-like tip (Cuspidate)**
- **Narrowing base (Cuneate)**

**Leaves**  
(petiole)



- **7 – 10 mm in length**

- **10 – 40 mm in length**

*Tarennia fragrans*

*Tarennia odorata*

Leaves  
(veins)



- 7 – 10 pairs
- Tertiary veinlets are faint



- 12 – 20 pairs
- Tertiary veins are faint

Leaves  
(hairs)



- Glabrous on both sides



- Glabrous above, **sparsely hairy on the midrib and veins on the underside**

Leaves  
(stipules)



- **Narrow, triangular**
- 3 – 7mm long
- Brown with pale margins when dried



- **Broad, triangular**
- 5 – 7 mm long
- Brown when dried

*Tarennia fragrans*





*Tarennia odorata*

Flowers



- Cyme inflorescence, terminal, **erect**
- Flowers **mature from white to black**, with scattered hairs
- 5-lobed, lanceolate, 4 -5 mm long, lobe **shorter than the tube**
- Tubular, 15 – 18 mm long covered in short dense hairs.
- ‘musky’ smell

- Cyme inflorescence, terminal, **pendulous**
- Flowers **mature from white to yellow**, with dense short hairs
- 5-lobed, lanceolate, 5 – 7 mm long, lobe **longer than the tube**
- Tubular, 4 – 5 mm long covered in short dense hairs.
- ‘peach-like’ fragrance

	<i>Tarennia fragrans</i>	<i>Tarennia odorata</i>
<b>Fruit</b>	 <p>Upright cluster</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Globular, berry-like, up to 5 mm wide</li> <li>• <b>Upright cluster</b></li> <li>• <b>Contain numerous brown seeds</b></li> </ul>	 <p>Pendulous cluster</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Globular, berry-like, up to 5 mm wide</li> <li>• <b>Pendulous cluster</b></li> <li>• <b>Usually single-seeded</b></li> </ul>

## Reference

- Wong, K.M. et al (2019). Flora of Singapore, vol 13, pt. 1, pp. 229-307. Singapore: National Parks Board.
- Photos by Cerlin Ng & Horticulture Outreach (H&C) team