

Adansonia digitata

Accession number: 00/5717*A

Family: Malvaceae

Common name: Baobab

Location: Eco Garden, near Melati gate

The Baobab is a strange-looking tree. With its massive trunk and spindly branches, it appears to have been planted upside-down, its branches resembling roots reaching towards the sky. As darkness falls, the Baobab's flowers bloom, sending out their sweet perfume to attract bats for pollination. These botanical behemoths are renowned for their longevity, with the world's oldest specimens estimated to be several thousand years old. Their remarkable survival is aided by thick, fibrous bark that resists fire, termites, and drought.

This species is distributed across tropical Africa, in dry woodland and savannahs.



Adenanthera malayana

Accession number: 20211918*A

Family: Fabaceae

Common name: Saga Hitam

Location: Gallop Green, near House 7

One of Singapore's oldest black and white colonial houses, Inverturret (also known as House 7), can be found at the Gallop Extension. This historic property, built in 1906, was acquired by Charles MacArthur, who served as an early chairman of the Straits Trading Company. The building later gained diplomatic significance, serving as the residence of French ambassadors for several decades. An aerial photograph from 1950 reveals the presence of our Saga Hitam next to House No. 7 at the Gallop extension and its already of considerable size.

This species is distributed across Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra and Singapore. Native to Singapore, this species is classified as Endangered locally.



Adenanthera pavonina

Accession number: 00/6509*A

Family: Fabaceae

Common name: Saga

Location: Lawn J, Frangipani plot

Standing on the south slope of Bandstand Hill in the Singapore Botanic Gardens, this Saga tree has been a silent sentinel since 1882. This resilient giant, with its spreading canopy and distinctive scarlet seeds, has witnessed over a century of the Gardens' transformation. Like many other Heritage Trees in the Gardens, it survived World War II and the Japanese occupation due to the invaders' esteem for objects and institutions of scientific value. From its perch on the south slope of Bandstand Hill, it would have stood by the prisoners of war as they slaved away building the brick steps leading to the Plant House, it is comforting to think that the captive soldiers might have found respite in the shade of this venerable tree.

This species is distributed from India to southeast China and Southeast Asia as far east as the Moluccas.



Adina eurhyncha

Accession number: 20112873*A

Family: Rubiaceae

Common name: Meraga

Location: Rain Forest, along staircase near to Viewing Terrace

Take a stroll through our Rain Forest and you'll discover nature's art gallery of beautiful bark patterns. The Meraga stands out as a masterpiece, with natural fissures on its trunk. Meraga trees are native to Singapore. They can grow up to 60 metres in height and mature to become part of the emergent layer in the Rain Forest, where they peek out above their neighbours. Standing proud in our collection, the Garden's Heritage Meraga is one of the largest specimens of its species in Singapore.

This species is distributed across Sumatra, Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, and Borneo. Native to Singapore, this species is considered to be Vulnerable locally.



Adinobotrys atropurpurea

Accession number: 00/6102*A

Family: Fabaceae

Common name: Tulang Daing or Purple Millettia

Location: Lawn F, next to Swan Lake

The Tulang Daing Heritage Tree was planted in 1889, when the lawn adjacent to Swan Lake (then known as Main Lake) was developed for a collection of plants from the bean family (Fabaceae or Leguminosae). The fruits are fat, woody pods, curved to a point at opposite ends like the keel of a boat. They split open when ripe to release one to four brown seeds, each about 6 cm across.

This species is distributed throughout the western part of Southeast Asia. It is said to thrive on poor soil. This is evident in the excellent vigour of the Gardens' specimen, which is growing on clay soil impoverished by former cultivation of gambier as a crop plant.



Alangium ridleyi

Accession number: 00/7051*A

Family: Cornaceae

Common name: Mentulang Daun Lebar

Location: Lawn H, along Dell Lane

Mentulang Daun Lebar has long been considered extinct in the wild in Singapore. Even during H.N. Ridley's time, this species was extremely rare – he had only ever seen it in the Gardens. However, a recent study in 2014 led to two new insights. First, remnants of the original population of trees were found to still exist in the Botanic Gardens and two additional trees, one each from MacRitchie reservoir and Mandai forest, were also recently discovered. This brought about the change in its local conservation status from Extinct in the wild to Critically Endangered due to the very small number of its remaining individuals in Singapore.

This species is distributed from Indochina through the Malay Peninsula to Sumatra and Borneo. This species is distributed from Indochina through the Malay Peninsula to Sumatra and Borneo. It is found mainly in undisturbed primary forests up to an elevation of 350 m.



Alstonia pneumatophora

Accession number: 00/7046*A

Family: Apocynaceae

Common name: Pulau Basong

Location: Lawn H, next to Heritage Garden

Early in the 19th century, before Swan Lake and Symphony Lake were constructed, freshwater swamp forest lay along the western edge of the Gardens. This habitat, described by E.J.H. Corner as a “chaos of mounds, pools, muddy creeks, small clearings and multifarious debris among stands of trees with stilt roots and pneumatophores”, was likely to be the original home of the Pulau Basong.

This species can be found in lowland swamps and moist hill forests throughout Southeast Asia.



Anthoshorea roxburghii

Accession number: 00/10146*A

Family: Dipterocarpaceae

Common name: Temak Nipis

Location: Main Gate Road, near Tanglin Gate

In 1978, Mr Wong Yew Kwan, the first Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, planted a row of Dipterocarp trees near the Tanglin Gate. These trees would eventually grow into towering giants, screening off the Gardens from the skyscrapers rising outside its boundary. Our Temak Heritage Tree was planted as part of this collection.

This species is distributed from India through Indochina to the northernmost parts of the Malay Peninsula. It is found in both seasonally dry and moist evergreen forests.



Antidesma bunius

Accession number: 00/7059*A

Family: Phyllanthaceae

Common name: Buni

Location: Near Heritage Garden

The Buni tree is native to Southeast Asia. An interesting point about the Buni and some members of its family (Phyllanthaceae) is that each tree produces either male or female flowers only. Our Heritage Buni tree produces only female flowers—hence we sometimes can find bunches of fruits hanging from its branches. In this region, the fruits of this tree are used to produce jams, jellies and wines.

This species is distributed from India through Indochina and Southeast Asia to northern Australia. It is commonly cultivated in villages in Indonesia and the Philippines, and less so in Malaysia.



Barringtonia asiatica

Accession number: 20091939*A

Family: Lecythidaceae

Common name: Putat Laut

Location: Healing Garden

The Putat Laut Heritage Tree is possibly a remnant of the former Economic Garden. These grounds were later allocated to the University of Malaya, a precursor of the National University of Singapore. The adjacent two-storey house is where R.E. Holttum lived upon retiring as Gardens Director and joining the University of Malaya as its first Professor of Botany in 1949. It looks out over the Heritage Tree and the former university plant nursery, which has since been converted into the Healing Garden.

This species is distributed throughout the tropical belt of the Indian Ocean to the western Pacific, from the mangrove forest to the back of the beach. Native to Singapore, this species is classified as Critically Endangered locally.



Calophyllum inophyllum

Accession number: 00/5323*A

Family: Clusiaceae

Common name: Penaga Laut

Location: Botany Centre

Our Penaga Laut is probably the largest specimen in Singapore and home to many epiphytes and climbers, including Bird's Nest Ferns (*Asplenium nidus*) and a massive Tiger Orchid (*Grammatophyllum speciosum*). Oriental Pied Hornbills have been seen feeding on the climbing figs wrapped around its massive trunks. Squirrels often bite into the stalk of the tree's immature fruit to drain the embryo, discarding the rest of the fruit, which is poisonous to them. Our Penaga Laut is probably the largest specimen in Singapore and home to many epiphytes and climbers (*Ficus villosa* etc.) Oriental Pied Hornbills have been seen feeding on the climbing figs wrapped around its massive branches. Squirrels often bite into the stalk of the tree's immature fruit to drain the embryo, discarding the rest of the fruit, which is poisonous to them.

This species can be found growing all along the tropical coasts of the Indian Ocean to the western Pacific, extending from East Africa to Polynesia. This species is native to Singapore and is classified as Endangered locally.



Canarium vulgare

Accession number: 20171330*B

Family: Burseraceae

Common name: Pokok Kenari

Location: Canarium Drive

A colonnade of Pokok Kenari trees lines Canarium Drive, a driveway that once led to Tyersall House, built by W. Napier in 1854. It is not known when these trees were planted, but they have evidently weathered the ravages of time more successfully than the Tyersall estate that they formerly belonged to.

This species is distributed from Java to Vanuatu.



Ceiba pentandra

Accession number: 112/33/1*A

Family: Malvaceae

Common name: Kapok tree or Silk-Cotton Tree

Location: Near SBG Heritage Museum (Holttum Hall)

The seed of this tree was part of an exchange between Singapore and the Gold Coast (now Ghana) in 1932 and planted in 1933 by former Director, Eric Holttum. As the common name suggests, this tree is a source of the cotton used for stuffing pillows.

This species is distributed across key tropical African and South American rainforests, where they form aerial habitats that are home to many organisms.



Cola gigantea

Accession number: 00/6631*A

Family: Malvaceae

Common name: Cola Tree

Location: Rain Forest entrance at Orchid Plaza

The Cola Tree standing in the Singapore Botanic Gardens holds a special significance, having been dedicated to South African President Nelson Mandela during a ceremony in March 1997. This event, which also included a VIP orchid naming in Mandela's honour, marked a fitting tribute to the great statesman.

This species is distributed across Tropical Africa, from Benin to Uganda.



Couroupita guianensis

Accession number: 00/9463*A

Family: Lecythidaceae

Common name: Cannon Ball Tree

Location: Ginger Garden, behind the waterfall

In 1934, the Garden's Assistant Director, E.J.H. Corner, was returning to Singapore from home leave in England. His ship had docked at Colombo in Sri Lanka, and he was told by the captain that they would be in port for just eight hours before sailing on to their destination. He decided to use this brief opportunity to visit the famous botanic garden of Peradeniya at Kandy and hired a car to drive there. Upon arrival at the garden, Corner probably had little time to explore it but still managed to collect three fruits from the spectacular specimen of this species. Our tree was grown from one of those seeds collected during his travel.

This species is distributed from Panama, French Guiana to Tropical South America.



Cyrtophyllum fragrans

Accession number: 00/5963*A

Family: Gentianaceae

Common name: Tembusu

Location: Lawn E

On the back of Singapore's five-dollar note features a portrait of the nation's most renowned tree—the ancient Tembusu standing on the lawn above Swan Lake. Carbon dating has estimated the tree to be at least 200 years old, confirming that it predates the Singapore Botanic Gardens itself. This majestic tree was once beloved by children who climbed its branches and served as a cherished backdrop for wedding photographs. However, since December 2013, the tree and its distinctive low limb have been protected by fencing to address soil compaction caused by years of heavy visitor traffic, which had compromised the tree's health. A leaf litter application programme was implemented to invigorate the condition of the root zone. Over time, the decomposition of this leaf litter and increased soil organism activity has gradually enriched the soil, enabling the tree's roots to flourish again, breathing new life into this national icon.

This species is distributed from southern Myanmar through Southeast Asia as far east as New Guinea. It is often found on the poorly aerated soils of swampy lowlands and heath forests. It is native to Singapore and can be found planted in landscapes across the island.



Dacrycarpus imbricatus

Accession number: 6/56/1*A

Family: Podocarpaceae

Common name: Chucher Atap or Malayan Yellow-Wood

Location: Near Heritage Garden

This Malayan Yellow-Wood is a remnant of the old conifer collection that once dominated parts of the current Tanglin Core of the Gardens. This is an interesting tropical conifer that is found in lowland and lower montane forests. These vegetation types are disappearing in the region. The wood is used in construction and for furniture, and a resin is harvested for use as fuel.

This species is distributed from southern China, through Southeast Asia to New Guinea and as far as Fiji.



Dipterocarpus oblongifolius

Accession number: 20131455*A

Family: Dipterocarpaceae

Common name: Neram

The Neram tree derives its scientific name from two parts: "Dipterocarpus" from Greek meaning "two-winged fruit", whilst the Latin "oblongifolius" refers to its oblong leaves. What makes this tree particularly interesting is its narrow leaves, which set it apart from most other Dipterocarpus species which have broad leaves. This unique leaf shape is believed to be an adaptation to its riparian habitat, allowing the tree to better withstand periodic flooding by offering less resistance to flowing water.

This species is distributed across Borneo, Peninsular Malaysia and Thailand. In the Malay Peninsula, it's often spotted along riverbanks in the northeastern regions, while in Borneo, it's widespread across Sarawak, Brunei, Kalimantan, and parts of Sabah.



Dryobalanops aromatica

Accession number: 94/40/1*B, 196/39/1*A, 94/40/1*C

Family: Dipterocarpaceae

Common name: Kapur

Locations: (3 Heritage Trees) Lawn E, Near Band Stand & Heritage Garden

In 1936, E.J.H. Corner, a former Gardens' Director, set out on an expedition to East Johor. Upon entering a stand of Kapur trees, he would have observed the extraordinary phenomenon of "crown shyness", where the crowns of adjacent trees do not overlap with one another but leave gaps of regular size, giving the impression of a mosaic when viewed from the ground. The seeds that E.J.H Corner collected from these remarkable trees were raised in the Singapore Botanic Gardens' nursery and planted as saplings in 1942. A third tree, planted earlier in 1940, came from a seed presented by the Agricultural Superintendent of Kuala Lumpur, who most likely collected them from the Kanching Forest Reserve in Selangor. These have since into our Kaur Heritage Trees.

This species is distributed across Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula and Borneo. It grows on well-drained soil in lowland hill forests up to an elevation of about 350 m.



Dyera costulata

Accession number: 00/9451*B

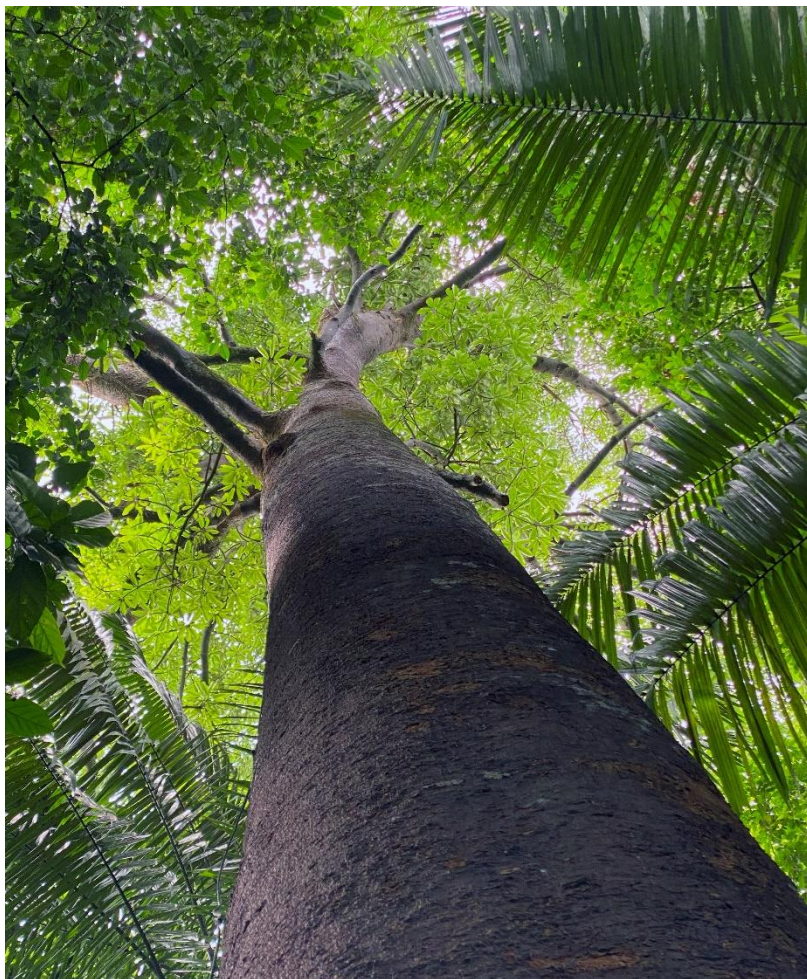
Family name: Apocynaceae

Common name: Jelutong

Location: Forest between Maranta Ave and Ginger Garden

The Jelutong, a native species of Singapore's forests, is magnificently represented by our Heritage Tree near the Singapore Botanic Gardens' Rain Forest, next to the Ginger Garden. This splendid specimen stands as a testament to the species' enduring presence in the area. Not far from its location once stood a colossal Jelutong, documented over a century ago on the western slope of Bandstand Hill. Regrettably, this giant likely succumbed to a lightning strike before lightning protection systems were installed on tall trees. It's quite possible that our current Heritage Tree is a descendant of that formidable predecessor, carrying on its legacy in the heart of the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

This species occurs naturally throughout lowland dipterocarp forests in southern Thailand, Sumatra, Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore and Borneo. Native to Singapore, this species is considered to be Vulnerable locally.



Erythrophleum suaveolens

Accession number: 00/9266*A

Family: Fabaceae

Common name: Ordeal Tree

Location: NOG nursery (no public access)

This remarkable specimen of *Erythrophleum suaveolens* in the Singapore Botanic Gardens can be traced back to 1905, when it was first received as a seed from Central Africa. Originally standing in the former Economic Gardens, it was transplanted to its current location due to the development of Raffles College in the 1920s. Now over a century old, this tree stands in the nursery of the National Orchid Garden, its distinctive crown prominent among the surrounding greenery.

This species is distributed across Tropical Africa, typically found in tropical lowland forests along streams.



Ficus kerkhovenii

Accession number: 20112418*A

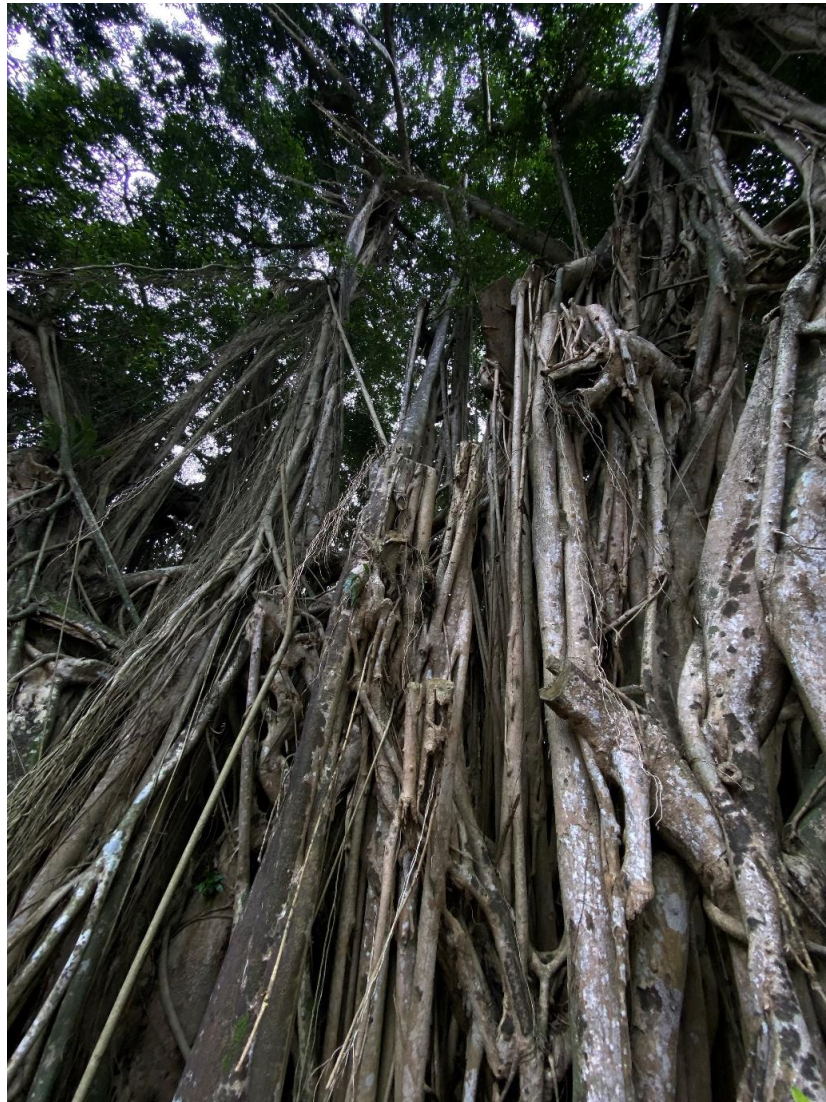
Family: Moraceae

Common name: Johore Fig

Location: Rain Forest

The Johore Fig is a critically endangered tree. It is known as a strangler fig because of its unique growth habit. It starts its life up in the canopy of another tree, where it grows as an epiphyte. As it grows, it develops roots that stretch down to the ground. Once the roots reach the forest floor, its growth rate increase and it grows into a large tree, gradually taking over the canopy of its host tree. With time it grows larger, puts down more roots and can support itself. It eventually shades out its host tree which then dies and eventually decays.

This species is distributed across Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Borneo, the Philippines, Sumatra and Java.



Ficus kurzii

Accession number: 00/4233*A

Family: Moraceae

Common name: Burmese Banyan

Location: Next to Swan Lake

Photographic records from 1877 show that this tree already existed on site and was sizable even back then. This suggests that the tree most likely predates the establishment of the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

One fascinating characteristic of Ficus is that they produce syconia, a specialised type of enclosed flower cluster unique to figs. This structure is essentially hollow and fleshy, with tiny flowers lining its internal walls. What is commonly considered a “fig fruit” is actually this special structure. Ficus rely exclusively on specialised fig wasp for pollination, and these wasps, in turn, depend on figs for their survival. The relationship between figs wasps and fig plants can be so specific that a fig planted outside its native region may fail to produce seeds due to the absence of its specialist pollinator-wasps.

This species is distributed from Yunnan, China, to the Western Malesia region.



Gnetum gnemon

Accession number: 12/82/1*B

Family: Gnetaceae

Common name: Belinjau

Location: Next to the Garage

If you've ever crunched into a crispy 'emping' chip at a Southeast Asian gathering, you've tasted the magic of the Belinjau ! Among the numerous economic plants that were once cultivated in the Singapore Botanic Gardens, Belinjau was grown as early as 1886, when botanists were exploring its potential as a commercial crop. This versatile plant offers multiple uses across Southeast Asia, with its seeds being the most widely utilised part. Our Heritage Belinjau was germinated from a seed collected by botanist J.F. Maxwell in February 1982 at Lower Peirce Reservoir and later planted in its current location.

This species is distributed across the region spanning from southern China through Assam, across most of Malesia, Papuasias, and southwards to Queensland. Native to Singapore and is considered to be Critically Endangered locally.



Heritiera elata

Accession number: 00/9332*A

Family: Malvaceae

Common name: Mengkulang

Location: Along Lower Ring Road

This species was described as new to science in 1908 from material obtained from this tree. Henry Ridley, the first Director of Singapore Botanic Gardens, had this to say when he described the species: “There are two or three of these fine trees in the Gardens’ Jungle. The finest is a conspicuous object by the plant sheds.” Besides being probably older than the Gardens and the first plant of its kind known to science, the tree itself has a unique growth habit. The entire trunk of the tree is made up of vertically folded plates, which are a unique feature of this species.

This species is found in the undisturbed primary forests of Borneo and the Malay Peninsula, growing on sandy soils often poor in nutrients. It is Critically Endangered in Singapore, growing wild only in the Singapore Botanic Gardens and in the vicinity of the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve.



Hopea odorata

Accession number: 00/3216*B

Family: Dipterocarpaceae

Common name: Cengal Pasir

Location: Corner Walk

Also known as the Cengal Pasir tree, *Hopea odorata* is highly prized for its timber, which is considered superior to teak. As a roadside shade tree, it demonstrates remarkable tolerance to urban environments. It has a conical crown when young, and its trunk bears characteristic scars of former branches, shed as they become shaded by the canopy above. While the bark is greyish-brown and somewhat fissured, the timber, known as Merawan, is yellow brown. It is utilized in the construction of boats, furniture, cabinets, and flooring. Based on old photographs and records, the Garden's Heritage Cengal Pasir was likely introduced in the 1990s.

This species is distributed across Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos, southern Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, the Andaman Islands and northern Peninsular Malaysia.



Horsfieldia irya

Accession number: 19970822*A

Family: Myristicaceae

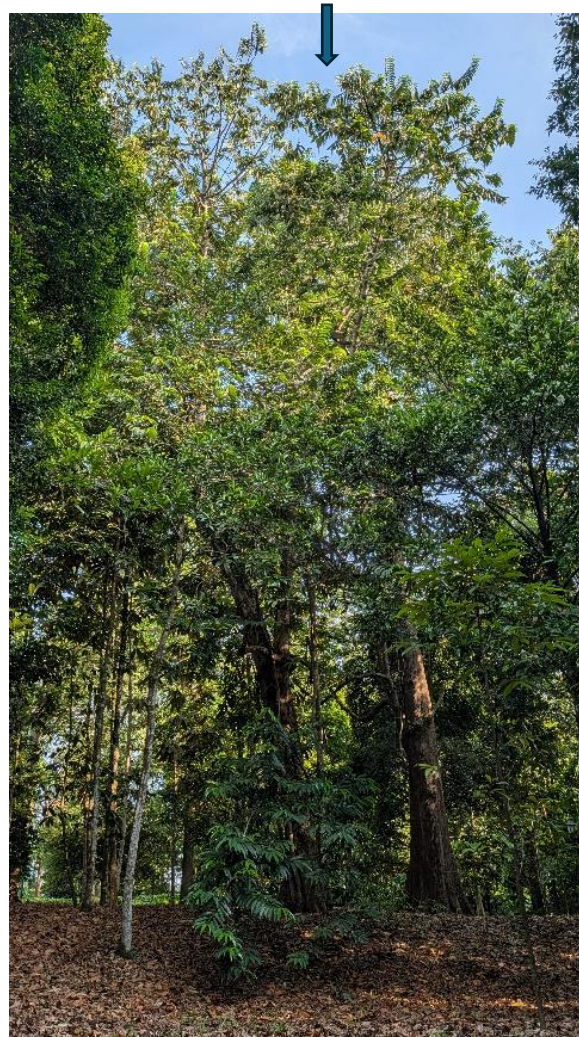
Common name: Penarahan Pianggu

Location: Between Nparks HQ and House 6

In 1896, trees of various species from the nutmeg family (Myristicaceae) were planted in the Economic Garden, most likely for trial as potential food crops. The Pianggu Heritage Tree is one of few trees that remains from this research plot.

Some species of the nutmeg family bear either male or female flowers, but not both. For many years, this male tree produced its pollen in vain. Fortunately, a number of female trees were planted in the vicinity at the turn of the millennium, and they have since flowered and borne fruit.

This species is distributed from Sri Lanka through Indochina and Southeast Asia as far east as the Solomon Islands. It is found in coastal, swamp and moist hill forests up to 300 m in elevation. This species is native to Singapore and is considered to be Critically Endangered. It is only found growing naturally on the island of Pulau Tekong.



Hymenaea courbaril

Accession number: 20000085*A

Family: Fabaceae

Common name: West Indian Locust

Location: Corner Green, next to Corner House

This tree is quite the medicine cabinet – and toolbox – rolled into one! Its bark holds medicinal properties and is commonly used as a treatment for coughs. Deep in its American homeland, lumberjacks swear by tea made from the bark to keep their energy levels up. The wood is highly versatile and serves numerous industrial purposes, being used in the manufacture of furniture, ships, wheels and cogs, musical instruments, plywood and cabinetwork. In agricultural applications, the seeds and pulp are ground together to create nutritious fodder for livestock. Standing tall in our Gardens, our Heritage West Indian Locust tree likely arrived as part of timber experimentations in the early days of the Economic Garden and is now the largest surviving specimen in the Gardens.

This species is distributed throughout South and Central America where it is prized for both timber and traditional medicine



Inocarpus fagifer

Accession number: 20050851*A

Family: Fabaceae

Common name: Tahitian Chestnut

Location: Flying Fox, Jacob Ballas Children's Garden

This Tahitian Chestnut, believed to have been planted before 1890 in the Economic Garden then, was likely cultivated for its edible seeds and valuable timber. The specimen is thought to be of Polynesian origin, as it was unknown in adjacent Johore until E.J.H. Corner, the former Assistant Director of Singapore Botanic Gardens, discovered a wild specimen near the Sedili River in the 1930s.

This species is distributed across Malesia to the South Pacific. It is typically found in tropical rainforests.



Khaya senegalensis

Accession: 00/4224*A

Family: Meliaceae

Common name: Senegal Mahogany

Location: Along Main Gate Road, next to Swan Lake

The Senegal Mahogany Heritage Tree was planted by Mr Lee Kuan Yew to commemorate Tree Planting Day on 2 November 1980. This species was introduced to Southeast Asia more than a century ago. It became a popular street tree in 1980s Singapore due to its rapid growth, ease of transplanting, and ability to tolerate the harsh, dry urban conditions.

This species is distributed from West Africa as far east as Sudan and Uganda. It is naturally found in riverine forests and savannah woodlands but has become relatively scarce due to heavy exploitation.



Kigelia africana

Accession: 58/31/2*A

Family: Bignoniaceae

Common name: African Sausage Tree

Location: Near Sundial Garden

The African Sausage Tree gets its name from its unique fruit, which looks like a sausage. The tree is sacred to many African communities. When they believe someone who is missing to be dead, they bury an African Sausage fruit to symbolise the body. Every part of the tree is used in herbal medicine. It is the medicinal properties that brought this plant to Singapore as an experimental economic plant.

This species is distributed across Tropical and South Africa, found in open woodlands and along riverbanks.



Koompasia malaccensis

Accession numbers: 00/7083*A, 19970936*A

Family: Fabaceae

Common name: Kempas

Locations: (2 Heritage Trees) Near Corner House, Near Fernery

The two Heritage Kempas trees are the largest specimens in the Singapore Botanic Gardens and are believed to be remnants of the lowland rainforest that once blanketed much of Singapore. One of these specimens was likely preserved when the slope extending south and eastwards was cut and levelled for the Plant House construction in 1882. The other Heritage Kempas stands at Corner House Gate and, although more distant from the existing Gardens Rain Forest, is also thought to be a preserved remnant.

This species is distributed across Sumatra, Malaysia, Singapore, and Borneo. It can be found in lowland forests up to 800 m altitude. Native to Singapore and this species is classified as Endangered locally.



Lagerstroemia loudonii

Accession number: 26/28/2*A

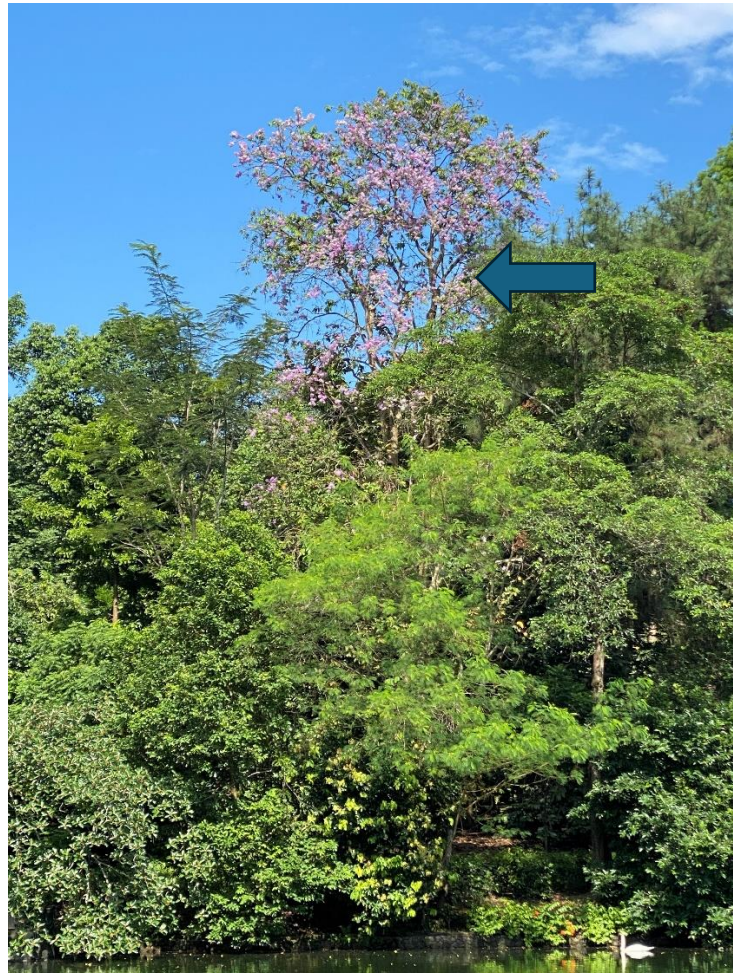
Family: Lythraceae

Common name: Kempas

Location: Lawn F, between Swan Lake and Walk of Giants

Thai Bungor, a magnificent flowering plant species belonging to the Lythraceae family (also known as the myrtle family), is renowned for its captivating floral display. The large, showy flowers appear in dense terminal panicles at the end of its branches, creating a spectacular visual impact. These blossoms typically exhibit vibrant shades of white, pink or purple.

Our Heritage Thai Bungor was grown from a seed received on 27 February 1928 from F.N. Howes, who was then serving as an assistant in the Museum of Economic Botany at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The introduction notes indicate that the seed was likely collected from Sriracha, Siam (now Thailand).



Lecythis pisonis

Accession numbers: 00/7040*A, 00/7040*B, 166/26/1*A

Family: Lecythidaceae

Common name: Monkey Pot Tree

Locations: (3 Heritage Trees) Lawn E near Swan Lake, Near Sun Rockery

The Monkey Pot Tree gets its name from its unique fruit which looks like a pot with a lid. Monkeys in South America are known to put their hands into the pot to get to its rich seeds. It is these very seeds that are rich in oils that brought this plant to Singapore as an experimental economic plant. Known in South America as Sapucaia nuts, they have a less firm shell than Brazil nuts, and a somewhat better flavour. The oil expressed from them is clear in colour, nearly white, tasteless, and rapidly becomes rancid. It is used in Brazil for making white soap and burnt as a source of light. Its timber is hard and durable, making it valuable for house-frames, wharves and sluices.

This species is distributed throughout the Atlantic Forest of Brazil, a biome with high rainfall and many endemic species.





Mangifera pentandra

Accession number : 00/7045*A

Family: Anacardiaceae

Common name: Puah Damar

Location: Opposite Sun Rockery

Think you know your mangoes? Here's one that might surprise you! Once a common sight in villages, Puah Damar is a true Singaporean kampung mango tree. Although often mistaken for the common Indian Mango (*Mangifera indica*), it is actually a less well-known member of the mango family. Today, our Heritage Puah Damar stands as a rare treasure - one of only two large specimens remaining in Singapore, with the other specimen located at the Gardens' Plant House. These two trees serve as living links to Singapore's kampung heritage.

This species is distributed across Thailand and the Malay Peninsula. Native to Singapore, this species is classified as Critically Endangered locally.



Myristica fragrans

Accession numbers: 20170578*A, 20170578*B

Family: Myristicaceae

Common name: Nutmeg

Location: Behind the Garage

The Garden's two Heritage Nutmeg trees are remnants of the plantings in the former Economic Garden, which was established in 1879. Introduced to Singapore in the 1830s, nutmeg was one of the successful cash crops for colonial planters during the mid-19th century, with numerous plantations established on the hills flanking Orchard Road—a thoroughfare that owes its name to these very nutmeg orchards. One of the more prominent plantations was situated at the site of present-day Dempsey Hill.

This species is native to the Moluccas.



Nauclea orientalis

Accession number: 19970260*A

Family: Rubiaceae

Common name: Bangkal

Location: Foliage Garden

The Bangkal belongs to the Coffee Family (Rubiaceae), one of the most important and diverse plant families in the tropics worldwide. The family is not especially noted for having large, towering tree species but rather for the many understory shrubs and herbs. This particular Bangkal is an exception. It is a good-sized ornamental tree with large leaves and compact heads of scented flowers. The timber can be used in wood craving, and the bark has been used in the treatment of stomach-ache and animal bites. The fragrant flowers develop into edible, but bitter fruits. Our Heritage Bangkal is the largest specimen of its kind in Singapore.

This species is distributed from India to Australia and across most parts of Southeast Asia.



Palaquium obovatum

Accession numbers: 19970860*A, 20092126*A

Family: Sapotaceae

Common name: White Gutta or Nyatoh Puteh

Locations: (2 Heritage Trees) Along Evolution Garden Walk, Behind NParks Raffles Building

The latex of this tree was widely used prior to the promotion of the South American Pará rubber tree by former director Henry Ridley. The first undersea telegraphic cables were insulated by rubber derived from the latex of *Palaquium* species. To this day, dentists still use latex derived products of this tree for root canal fillings. This tree is located on the site of the former Economic Gardens. The 1899 annual report of the Gardens mentions that a plantation was created here in response to the loss of wild trees that were formerly exploited for latex.

This species is distributed from India through Southeast Asia as far east as the Philippines. It is found in a variety of lowland environments, from limestone forests to freshwater swamps. Native to Singapore, this species is considered to be Vulnerable locally. It is confined to the Nee Soon Swamp Forest and a handful of the Southern Islands.





Pangium edule

Accession number: 19970097*A

Family: Achariaceae

Common name: Keluak

Location: Opposite Sun Rockery

On 19 September 1936, E.J.H. Corner collected specimens of Keluak from Segamat, Johore. These specimens, which he noted were "5 weeks old", were subsequently cultivated in the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Over the decades, fruit collections from what appears to be the same tree were made at Lawn H in 1953, 1981, 1995, and 2012. Historical maps from the 1940s marked this tree as H-108 and it stands in the proximate location where our Heritage Keluak Tree is today, suggesting this may be the very specimen that Corner originally collected and documented in 1936.

This species is found distributed across Southeast Asia extending to Melanesia and Micronesia.



Pentadesma butyracea

Accession number: 20091945*A

Family: Clusiaceae

Common name: Tallow tree

Location: Healing Garden

Our Heritage Tallow Tree was introduced from Sierra Leone in 1897, no doubt as a potential economic crop for its fatty seeds. It is clearly visible as a large specimen in a 1959 aerial photograph of the Gardens, confirming its age of more than a century and its status as a survivor from the former Economic Garden

This species is distributed throughout the swamps and rainforests of tropical West Africa, more abundantly in secondary forest than primary. It has a suckering habit, as evidenced by the multitude of young shoots growing near the base of our Heritage Tree



Podocarpus neriifolius

Accession number: 00/5024*A

Family: Podocarpaceae

Common name: Jati Bukit or Mountain Teak

Location: Along Main Gate Road

This Mountain Teak is one of the last remnants of a larger collection of tropical conifers that once occupied this part of the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Conifers such as pine trees are distinctive plants in colder climates. However, many conifers are found in the tropics as well. This tree is found in closed evergreen lowland and lower montane forests from the Himalayas and South China to New Guinea. In Peninsular Malaysia, it is found on the mountains where it occurs sporadically in rather remote places.



Pseudalbizzia niopoides* var. *niopoides

Accession: 00/6003*A

Family: Fabaceae

Common name: Tekik

Location: Lawn E, near Swan Lake

The Tekik Heritage Tree arrived as a seed, no bigger than a ten-cent coin, from Darjeeling, India in May 1925. After four years of nurturing in the Singapore Botanic Gardens' nursery, it was planted at its current location near Swan Lake. It has since grown so tall that it dwarfs all the neighbouring trees around it. The bark yields a red dye called soqa tekik, used for colouring batik fabrics in Java.

This species was first described from Timor and is distributed from Indochina throughout Southeast Asia as far east as New Guinea.



Rubroshorea curtsii

Accession number: 20101446*A

Family: Dipterocarpaceae

Common name: Seraya

Location: Rain Forest, Near Maranta Avenue

The Gardens' Rain Forest is a remnant of the original tropical lowland forest that once extended across the island. Today, this area represents the only remaining uncleared rainforest fragment outside of the Nature Reserve. While it spans just 6.2 ha, this key nature area boasts remarkable diversity and serves as a sanctuary for over 300 distinct flora species, with nearly 80% classified as Rare or Endangered. The Rain Forest also supports a diverse array of bird, amphibian and reptile species, in addition to its rich plant life.

Within this forest, the Heritage Seraya is believed to be a long-standing resident that likely predates the Gardens' establishment in 1859, its girth was measured to be approximately 4.7 m in 2025, making it the largest specimen of Seraya outside the Nature Reserve.

This species is distributed across Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. Native to Singapore, this species is classified as Endangered locally.



Rubroshorea pauciflora

Accession number: 20093616*A

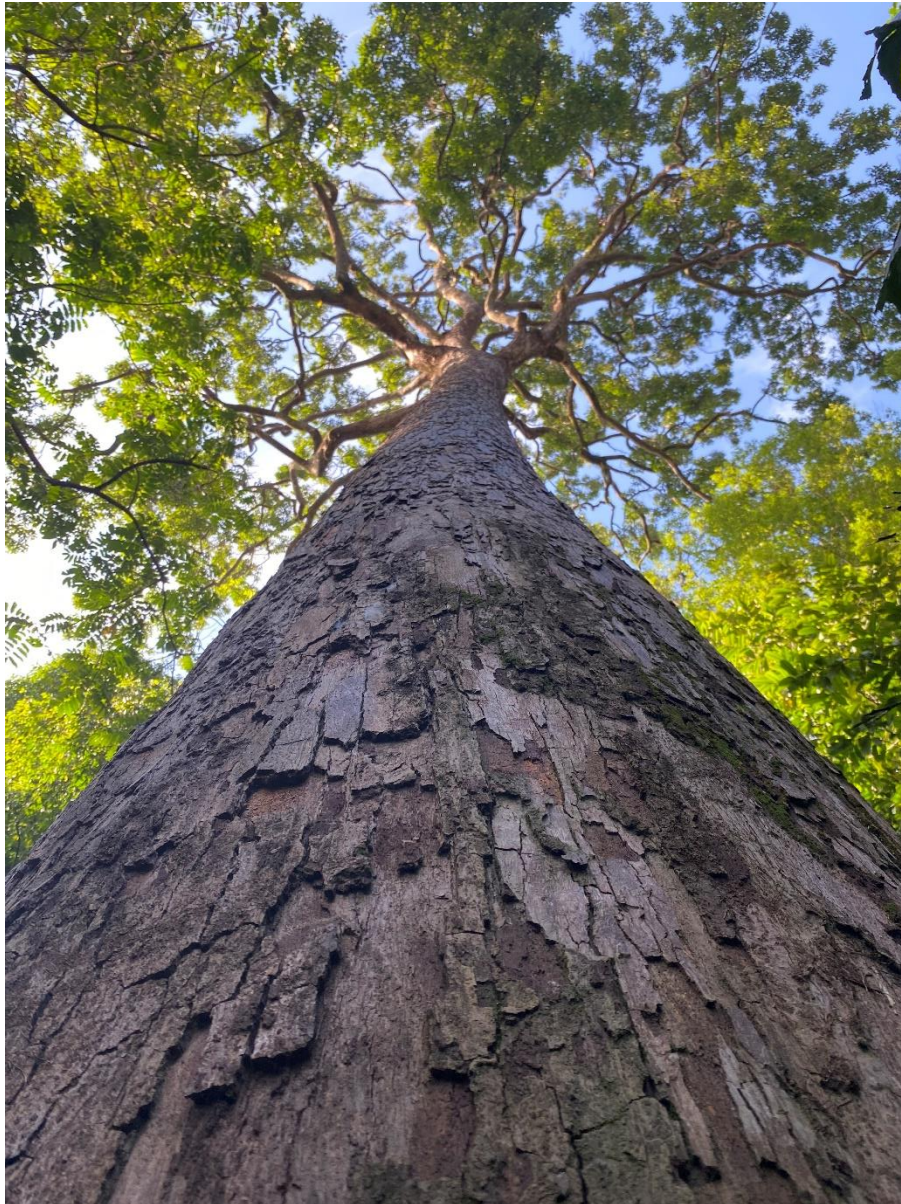
Family: Dipterocarpaceae

Common name: Meranti Nemesu

Location: Rain Forest, along the Lower Ring Road

Within the Singapore Botanic Gardens' Rain Forest, our Heritage Meranti Nemesu flourishes as a canopy emergent tree, towering above the surrounding forest canopy. This Heritage Nemesu is believed to be a long-standing resident of the Rain Forest, likely predating the Garden's establishment in 1859. Nemesu Avenue, located near Lower Pierce Reservoir, is named after the Nemesu.

This species is distributed across Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Sumatra and Borneo. Native to Singapore and this species is classified as Endangered locally.



Samanea saman

Accession numbers: 20000087*A, 20101142*A

Family: Fabaceae

Common name: Rain Tree

Locations: (2 Heritage Trees) Nassim Visitor Centre, Tyersall Learning Forest Drop off

Amongst Singapore's numerous Rain Trees, those found at the Nassim Visitor Centre and The Dell within the Singapore Botanic Gardens are of historical importance. These specimens are believed to date back to 1882, coinciding with the first successful introduction of the species to Singapore through the Gardens. Their longevity and size make them living testaments to the success of early tree-planting efforts and the adaptability of the Rain Tree to Singapore's climate.

This species is distributed from Mexico through the rest of Central America to Venezuela, Colombia and Brazil. It is naturally found growing beside rivers in lowland tropical rainforests.



Sterculia foetida

Accession numbers: 18/96/6835*A, 00/6990*A

Family name: Malvaceae

Common name: Giant Sterculia

Locations: (2 Heritage trees) EcoGarden & NOG nursery

Despite its malodorous flowers, the Giant Sterculia is highly valued across many cultures. It is often harvested from the wild, providing food, medicine, and a range of materials for local use. While the unripe seeds are inedible, they can be eaten ripe, roasted, or fried, with a pleasant taste reminiscent of chestnuts. The bark and leaves are used in traditional medicine to treat conditions such as constipation and rheumatism.

One notable specimen of the Giant Sterculia, originally located in the former Economic Garden, was transplanted before 1920 to its current location in National Orchid Garden Nursery due to the development of former Raffles College. This impressive tree can be spotted from afar along the boardwalk leading to the Yuen Peng McNeice Bromeliad Collection in the Tropical Montane Orchidarium. A second Heritage Giant Sterculia can be found in the Eco Garden.

This species is distributed across India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Southeast Asia.



Stereospermum fimbriatum

Accession number: 00/5075*A

Family: Bignoniaceae

Common name: Snake Tree

Location: Main Gate Road

Snake Trees were planted in the Gardens as early as 1882. This specimen, brought from the municipal nursery in 1937, is the only one that survives from the Gardens' early years. Snake Trees were popular in 1970s Singapore for their attractive flowers, which carpet the ground after each major flowering period.

This species is distributed from Myanmar to the northern part of the Malay Peninsula. It is found in a variety of habitats, including lowland forests, cleared land and rocky coasts.



Swietenia mahagoni

Accession number: 00/10861*A

Family: Meliaceae

Common name: West Indies Mahogany

Location: Between Halia Restaurant and entrance of National Orchid Garden

Commonly referred to as West Indies Mahogany, it is from this species which the original 'Mahogany' wood was produced. Its timber is durable and resistant to most wood-rotting fungi, making it commonly used in furniture and musical instruments. Our Heritage West Indies Mahogany tree is marked in old maps of the Singapore Botanic Gardens and is estimated to have been present here since the 1940s.

This species is distributed from southern Florida to the Caribbean.



Tectona grandis

Accession number: 00/5325*A

Family: Lamiaceae

Common name: Teak

Location: Next to Botany Centre

In 1875, the Singapore Botanic Gardens shifted its focus to trialling economically valuable plants, including timber trees. By 1879, numerous species were growing in the experimental plots of the Gardens hidden away from public access. However, for educational purposes, some specimens were also planted in the public areas, including this Burmese Teak Tree, which was grown from seed in 1884. Our stubborn survivor has taken 140 years to reach its present size but has at least defied the comments in Henry Burkill's illustrated Guide to the Gardens in 1927, which stated "... It is small and, as teak scarcely stands the climate, is not likely to become a large tree."

This species occurs naturally in peninsular India, Myanmar, Thailand and Laos, thriving in deciduous forest on fertile, well-drained soil up to 1000 m altitude. It was probably introduced to Java several hundred years ago and is now naturalised there. It is cultivated on a large scale both inside and outside the Malesian region.



Terminalia catappa

Accession number: 20140340*A

Family: Combretaceae

Common name: Ketapang

Location: Ethnobotany Garden

Towering over the Ethnobotany Garden is a Ketapang with its distinctive pagoda-shaped crown. Native to sandy coastal habitats, it is commonly planted or grown naturally as a beach stabiliser, with its vast roots compacting and holding sand. Colloquially known as Ketapang, which is the Malay name (hence the epithet catappa), it is also known as the Sea almond, Indian almond, Tropical almond, and Singapore almond, owing to its kernel having a taste very similar to almond. This deciduous tree can shed its leaves several times a year. Old leaves turn a bright red before senescing, an unusual feature in the tropics that is reminiscent of autumn in temperate regions.

The native range of this species extends from the Comoros and Madagascar through Tropical and Subtropical Asia to the Pacific and Northern Australia.



Terminalia subpathulata

Accession number: 20021468*A

Family: Combretaceae

Common name: Jelawai Jaha

Location: Rain Forest, Junction of Lower Ring Road and Maranta Avenue

A native of the Singapore Botanic Gardens' rainforest, it has been standing here for more than 150 years. It has been identified from photographs taken in the early 1900s. It is a hardwood timber tree. At more than 50 metres tall, this is one of the tallest trees in the Gardens. It is an uncommon species in the wild. In the 1980s, the tree was struck by lightning but subsequently recovered. The Jelawai periodically sheds its leaves, leaving almost the entire tree bare. The fruits are winged to aid in the dispersal of the seeds. This tree was dedicated to Lady Yuen-Peng McNeice, in 2004, at the inaugural Heritage Tree dedication ceremony.

This species is distributed throughout the lowland forests of the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and Borneo. Native to Singapore, wild populations occur in Changi, the Nature Reserves and the Singapore Botanic Gardens' Rain Forest. In Singapore, it is classified as Endangered locally.

