

Comparison of Similar Looking Plants

Alstonia scholaris, *Alstonia angustiloba* and *Dyera costulata*



Scientific name: *Alstonia scholaris*
Common name: Indian Pulai
Family: Apocynaceae
Origin: Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia









Scientific name: *Alstonia angustiloba*
Common name: Common Pulai
Family: Apocynaceae
Origin: Singapore, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, the Philippines












Scientific name: *Dyera costulata*
Common name: Jelutong
Family: Apocynaceae
Origin: Singapore, Thailand, Sumatra, Borneo, Peninsular Malaysia







Character Comparison

	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>	<i>Alstonia angustiloba</i>	<i>Dyera costulata</i>
Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 20 m under cultivation or 40 m in nature Young trees with pagoda-shaped crown, later becoming cylindrical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 40 m in nature Young trees with pagoda-shaped crown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 30 m under cultivation or 60-80 m in nature Conical to wide spreading crown 
Trunk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluted trunk with buttress roots in mature trees Brown or yellowish white bark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluted trunk with buttress roots up to 8 m tall in mature trees Brownish or greyish, fissured bark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Straight trunk without buttress roots and not fluted Dark grey or black bark 

Character Comparison

	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>	<i>Alstonia angustiloba</i>	<i>Dyera costulata</i>
Young Foliage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yellowish green young foliage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yellowish green young foliage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orange-pink to red young foliage 
Foliage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-8 whorled, elliptical leaves (7-17 cm long) with 0.7-1.5 cm long leaf stalk and with triangular intrapetiolar stipules   <p>© Cerlin Ng</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-8 whorled, elliptic-oblong leaves (5-17 cm long) with 1.5-3.5 cm long leaf stalk and without intrapetiolar stipules  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6-8 whorled, ovate-oblong leaves (7-18 cm long) with 2-6 cm long leaf stalk and without intrapetiolar stipules   <p>© Zaki Jamal</p>

Character Comparison

	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>	<i>Alstonia angustiloba</i>	<i>Dyera costulata</i>
Flower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White to cream or yellowish green, fragrant, night-blooming flowers (1 cm wide)  <p>© Zaki Jamal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White to pale yellow, fragrant flowers (1-1.2 cm wide)  <p>© Cerlin Ng</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White, fragrant, night-blooming flowers (0.5-0.8 cm wide) 
Fruit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pairs of narrow, cylindrical pods (21-56 cm long, 0.3-0.5 cm wide) hang down  <p>© Zaki Jamal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pairs of narrow, cylindrical pods (20-35 cm long, 1.6-2.3 mm wide) hang down, covered in soft brown hairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pairs of woody, curved reddish brown pods (15-40 cm long, 2-3 cm wide) held upright 

References

Flora Malesiana (<https://portal.cybertaxonomy.org/flora-malesiana/node/39>)

Gardner S. et al (eds.). (2015). *Forest Trees of Southern Thailand* (Volume 1). Bangkok: Kobfai Publishing Project.

Soerianegara I. and Lemmens R.H.M.J. (eds.). (1994). *Plant Resources of South-East Vol 5 Timber trees: Major commercial timbers*. Bogor: Prosea Foundation.

The DNA of Singapore (<https://lkcnhm.nus.edu.sg/dna/organisms/details/340>)