

# Comparison of Similar Looking Plants

*Heterotis rotundifolia*, *Melastoma malabathricum*  
*and Tibouchina urvilleana*



**Scientific name:** *Heterotis rotundifolia*

**Common name:** Spanish Shawl

**Family name:** Melastomataceae

**Origin:** Tropical West Africa



**Scientific name:** *Melastoma malabathricum*

**Common name:** Singapore Rhododendron

**Family name:** Melastomataceae

**Origin:** South and South East Asia



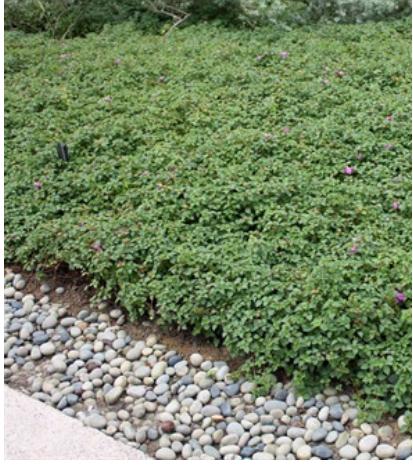
**Scientific name:** *Tibouchina urvilleana*

**Common name:** Glory Bush

**Family name:** Melastomataceae

**Origin:** Brazil

## Character comparison

	Form	Foliage
<i>Heterotis rotundifolia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creeping herb, 0.15 – 0.3 m tall</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ovate to ovate-lanceolate, 2 – 6 cm long</li> <li>Smooth</li>  </ul>
<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erect shrub, 1 – 2 m tall</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lanceolate, 5 – 12 cm long</li> <li>Smooth</li>  </ul>
<i>Tibouchina urvilleana</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sprawling shrub, 1 – 3 m tall</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lanceolate, 5 – 10 cm long</li> <li>Hairy</li>  </ul>

## Character comparison

	Flower	Fruit
<i>Heterotis rotundifolia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Magenta pink, about 4 cm across</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ovoid to ellipsoid, covered with bristly hairs, about 1 cm across</li> </ul> 
<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Light to dark magenta-pink, 5 – 8 cm across</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Round, 0.6 – 1 cm across</li> </ul> 
<i>Tibouchina urvilleana</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bright purple, 6 – 10 cm across</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ovoid, about 1 cm across</li> </ul> 

## **References**

- Chong K.Y., Tan H.T.W., Corlett R.T., 2009. A checklist of the total vascular plant flora of Singapore: native, naturalised and cultivated species. Singapore: Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. [http://lkcnhm.nus.edu.sg/nus/pdf/PUBLICATION/LKCNH%20Museum%20Books/LKCNHM%20Books/flora\\_of\\_singapore\\_tc.pdf](http://lkcnhm.nus.edu.sg/nus/pdf/PUBLICATION/LKCNH%20Museum%20Books/LKCNHM%20Books/flora_of_singapore_tc.pdf)
- Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN). <https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxonomydetail.aspx?id=451658> (accessed on 29 Mar. 2017).
- Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden. <http://www.htbg.com/Melastomataceae/DIS-010-12-23-001/> (accessed on 29 Mar. 2017).
- The Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI). <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/120226> (accessed on 29 Mar. 2017).
- Missouri Botanical Gardens. <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=282684&isprofile=0&> (accessed on 8 May 2017).

Please visit our website [florafaunaweb.nparks.gov.sg](http://florafaunaweb.nparks.gov.sg) for more information.