

Comparison of Similar Looking Plants

Memecylon edule, *Memecylon garcinoides* and *Memecylon ovatum*



Scientific name: *Memecylon edule*

Common Name: Delek Ayer

Family name: Melastomataceae

Origin: From Sri Lanka to Malesia

Conservation status in SG: Endangered



Scientific name: *Memecylon garcinoides*

Common Name: -

Family name: Melastomataceae

Origin: Malesia

Conservation status in SG:
Critically Endangered



Scientific name: *Memecylon ovatum*







Common Name: Delek Ayer

Family name: Melastomataceae




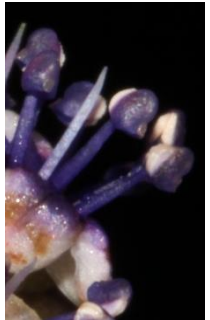


Origin: Tropical Asia

Conservation status in SG: Endangered






Character comparison

	Foliage	
<i>M. edule</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petiole is 0.2 – 0.5 cm long. Leaf is elliptic lanceolate shaped (4 – 7.5 cm long and 2 – 3.5 cm wide). Leaf base tapers slightly towards petiole. Leaf tip is blunt or shortly pointed. 	 
<i>M. garcinoides</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petiole is 0.2 – 0.5 cm long. Leaf is elliptic or elliptic lanceolate (5.5 – 13 cm long and 2.7 – 5.8 cm wide). Leaf base tapers slightly towards petiole. Leaf tip is pointed and can be up to 0.6 – 1.2 cm long. Often greenish or mottled on the underside of leaves when young. Often slightly wrinkled due to the shrinkage of the surrounding lamina when dry. 	 
<i>M. ovatum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petiole is 0.8 – 1.7 cm long. Leaf is broadly ovate to ovate shaped (6 – 10 cm long and 2.5 – 7 cm wide). Leaf base is truncate to obtuse. Leaf tip is blunt or shortly pointed. 	 

Character comparison

	Flowers	
<i>M. edule</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflorescence occurs just behind leaves. • Each cluster is 1.5 – 2.5 cm long and comprises of about 50 flowers • There are 1 – 2 main stalks which are about 0.5 – 1.0 cm long. • Calyx is greenish or yellowish • Petals are white-pink. • Anthers are lilac-coloured, C-shaped with a distinct gland. 	 
<i>M. garcinoides</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflorescence occurs on leafy branches or just behind leaves. • Each cluster is 1 cm long and comprises of 20 – 30 flowers. • There are 1 – 3 main stalks which are about 0.2 – 1 cm long. • Calyx is whitish and reveals eight pale dots after petals and anthers has fallen. • Petals are white-blue. • Anthers are deep blue colour, almost round with a distinct gland on the tip. 	 
<i>M. ovatum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflorescence occurs on older branches just behind the leaves. • Each cluster is 1.5 – 3.5 cm long and comprises of 30 – 50 flowers. • Main stalk is distinct and about 1 – 1.5 cm long. • Calyx is whitish or pale pink. • Petals are deep purple-blue. • Anthers are deep blue colour, C-shape, with a centrally placed gland. 	 

Character comparison

	Fruits	
<i>M. edule</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stalk is 0.1 – 0.2 cm long. • Fruit turns from green to yellow then black or purple, never red. • Fruit is round, often slightly flattened at the ends (about 0.7 diameter). • Tip of the fruit (calyx remnant) is slightly raised, about 0.1 – 0.2 cm wide. 	 
<i>M. garcinoides</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stalk is 0.2 – 0.3 cm long. • Fruit turns from green to pink to purple. • Fruit is round about 8 mm diameter. • Tip of the fruit (calyx remnant) is slightly raised, about 0.1 – 0.15 mm wide. 	
<i>M. ovatum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stalk is 0.2 – 0.3 cm long. • Fruit turns red before black. • Fruit is round about 7 – 8 mm diameter, ripening through pinkish green through red to deep purple-black. • Tip of the fruit (calyx remnant) is slightly raised, about 1.5 mm diameter. 	 

References

Gardner, S., Sidisunthorn, P. & Chayamarit, K. (2015). *Forest Trees of Southern Thailand* Vol. 2. Thailand.

Hughes, M. (2013). *Memecylaceae. Flora of Peninsular Malaysia*, Vol. 4, pp. 269 – 324. Forest Research Institute Malaysia.

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