

# Comparison of Similar Looking Plants

*Sterculia parviflora*, *Sterculia cordata* and *Sterculia rubiginosa*



**Scientific name:** *Sterculia parviflora*

**Common Name:** Common Sterculia

**Family name:** Malvaceae

**Origin:** Northeast India to Peninsular Malaysia, and Singapore

**Status:** Critically endangered



Photo by: Cerlin Ng

**Scientific name:** *Sterculia cordata*

**Common Name:** Kelumpang, Kembang

**Family name:** Malvaceae

**Origin:** Sumatra, Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Java, Borneo and the Philippines

**Status:** Critically endangered



Photo by: Cerlin Ng

**Scientific name:** *Sterculia rubiginosa*







**Common Name:** Rusty Sterculia

**Family name:** Malvaceae




**Origin:** Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Brunei, and Indonesia

**Status:** Vulnerable

# Character comparison




|                      | Foliage  |   |   |
|----------------------|--|---|---|
| <i>S. parviflora</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaf is 8 – 20 cm long</li> <li>• Leaf base is slightly cordate to truncate</li> <li>• Leaf stalk is glabrous (Fig 1a)</li> <li>• Upper surface is smooth</li> <li>• Lower surface is covered sparsely with minute round peltate scales (Fig 1b)</li> </ul>                               |  <p>Fig 1a</p>   |  <p>Fig 1b</p>   |
| <i>S. cordata</i>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaf is 8 – 30 cm long.</li> <li>• Leaf base is cordate or truncate</li> <li>• Leaf stalk is covered in dense stellate hairs (Fig 2a)</li> <li>• Upper surface is smooth</li> <li>• Lower surface is densely covered with stellate hairs (Fig 2b)</li> </ul>                              |  <p>Fig 2a</p>  |  <p>Fig 2b</p>  |
| <i>S. rubiginosa</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaf is 7 – 27 cm long</li> <li>• Leaf base is slightly cordate or rounded</li> <li>• Leaf stalk is covered in dense reddish hairs (Fig 3a)</li> <li>• Upper surface is mostly smooth</li> <li>• Lower surface is covered with sparse to dense reddish stellate hairs (Fig 3b)</li> </ul> |  <p>Fig 3a</p> |  <p>Fig 3b</p> |

# Character comparison




|                      | Stipules  |  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| <i>S. parviflora</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stipules fall off early</li> </ul>           |    |
| <i>S. cordata</i>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stipules absent or fall off early</li> </ul> |   |
| <i>S. rubiginosa</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stipules are persistent</li> </ul>           |  |



# Character comparison

|                             | Flower  |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <b><i>S. parviflora</i></b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inflorescence is 9 – 20 cm long</li> <li>• Flower is pale yellow with pink base, becoming reddish pink</li> <li>• Calyx is urn-shaped, 3 – 5 mm long</li> <li>• Calyx is smooth inside and hairy outside</li> <li>• Mature flower has 5 lobes which curve inwards and join at the tip</li> </ul> |    |
| <b><i>S. cordata</i></b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inflorescence up to 30 cm long</li> <li>• Flower is pinkish or reddish orange</li> <li>• Calyx is bell-shaped, 2 – 5 mm long</li> <li>• Calyx is hairy both inside and outside</li> <li>• Mature flower has 5 lobes which are reflexed and curve outwards, not joining at the tip</li> </ul>     |   |
| <b><i>S. rubiginosa</i></b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inflorescence is 6 – 30 cm long</li> <li>• Flower is reddish orange</li> <li>• Calyx is bell-shaped, 5 – 21 mm long</li> <li>• Calyx is smooth on the inside and hairy on the outside</li> <li>• Mature flower has 5 lobes which mostly curve inwards and join at the tip</li> </ul>             |  |

# Character comparison

|                      | Fruit   |   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| <i>S. parviflora</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each follicle is oblong, 7 – 12 cm long and 3– 6 cm wide</li> <li>Follicle is yellowish pink at first and ripening red</li> <li>Distinct abruptly narrow tip</li> <li>There are 2 – 4 black ellipsoid seeds in each follicle. (1.1 cm long and 0.8 cm diameter)</li> </ul> |                               |
| <i>S. cordata</i>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each follicle is oblong-obovoid 4.5 – 12 cm long and 2 - 5 cm wide</li> <li>Follicle ripens red</li> <li>There are 4 – 10 black ellipsoid seeds in each follicle. (1.1 – 1.3 cm long and 0.5 – 0.6 cm diameter)</li> </ul>   |  <p>Photo by: Cerlin Ng</p>  |
| <i>S. rubiginosa</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each follicle is 3 – 10 cm long and 1 - 3 cm wide</li> <li>Follicle ripens red</li> <li>There are 2 – 6 black globose or ellipsoid seeds in each follicle. (1 – 1.8 cm long and 0.6 – 0.8 cm diameter)</li> </ul>  |  <p>Photo by: Cerlin Ng</p> |

## Reference

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