

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

Character comparison

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

Character comparison

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

Character comparison

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

Reference

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