

Comparison of similar looking plants

Trees (1)

Syzygium lineatum (Common Kelat) and *Syzygium zeylanicum* (Gelam Tikus)



Syzygium lineatum and *Syzygium zeylanicum*

Scientific Name: *Syzygium lineatum*

Common Name: Common Kelat

Family: Myrtaceae (Water Apple Family)



Syzygium lineatum:

This is a medium sized tree that usually grows to 10m tall, but some can reach 22m in height.

It has a dense, conical or hemispherical crown. In mature specimens, the trunk ranges from light pink to greyish brown. It may develop bunches of short stilt roots from the trunk if grown in wet areas.

It is often mistaken for another similar looking and commonly grown species, *Syzygium zeylanicum*, which also has white flowers and fruits. Sterile specimens can be differentiated from *S. zeylanicum* in leaf size, color of flush leaves, venation and bark characters.

Scientific Name: *Syzygium zeylanicum*

Common Name: Gelam Tikus

Family: Myrtaceae (Water Apple Family)



Syzygium zeylanicum:

This species is a shrub or tree that can grow up to 18m tall, and has an oval to rounded crown.

The trunk is reddish brown, and in mature specimens, the bark is papery and flaky.



Syzygium lineatum and *Syzygium zeylanicum*



The upper surface of the leaves of *Syzygium lineatum* (left) are a dull/ matte green, whereas the leaves of *Syzygium zeylanicum* (right) are glossy



Syzygium lineatum leaves are lance shaped – elliptic, 5-11cm long by 2-5cm wide and are usually larger than *S. zeylanicum* . The latter has lance shaped leaves that are 3-11 cm long by 1.1-5.5 cm wide. *S. lineatum* also has a more distinct intramarginal vein, and more closely spaced secondary veins than *S. zeylanicum*.

Syzygium lineatum and *Syzygium zeylanicum*



Flush (young) leaves of *Syzygium lineatum* (left) are a light green, but in *Syzygium zeylanicum* (right), they are dull red



The flowers of *Syzygium lineatum* (left) are borne on in clusters of up to 10cm long, whereas in *Syzygium zeylanicum* (right), the flowers are held in more compact clusters of 2.5 - 4cm in length.

Syzygium lineatum and *Syzygium zeylanicum*



The fruits of *Syzygium lineatum* (left) are oblong to egg shaped, 1.3cm long by 1cm wide, and are larger than the smaller, oblong to oblong-round fruits of *Syzygium zeylanicum* (right), which measure only 0.5-0.7cm across