

# Comparison of Similar Looking Plants

## *Tristaniopsis obovata* and *Tristaniopsis whiteana*



Scientific name:  
***Tristaniopsis obovata***

Common name:  
**Pelawan-pelawan**

Family name: **Myrtaceae**

Origin: **Sumatra, Java, Malaysia,  
Singapore and Borneo**

Local Conservation Status:  
**Critically Endangered**



Scientific name:  
***Tristaniopsis whiteana***

Common name:  
**River Tristania**

Family name: **Myrtaceae**

Origin: **Sumatra, Malaysia,  
Singapore and Borneo**

Local Conservation Status:  
**Endangered**

# Character comparison

	<i>Tristaniopsis obovata</i>	<i>Tristaniopsis whiteana</i>
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Found in coastal forests</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Found in rainforests along riverbanks</li></ul>
Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tree, up to 20 m tall</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tree, up to 45 m tall</li></ul> 

## Character comparison

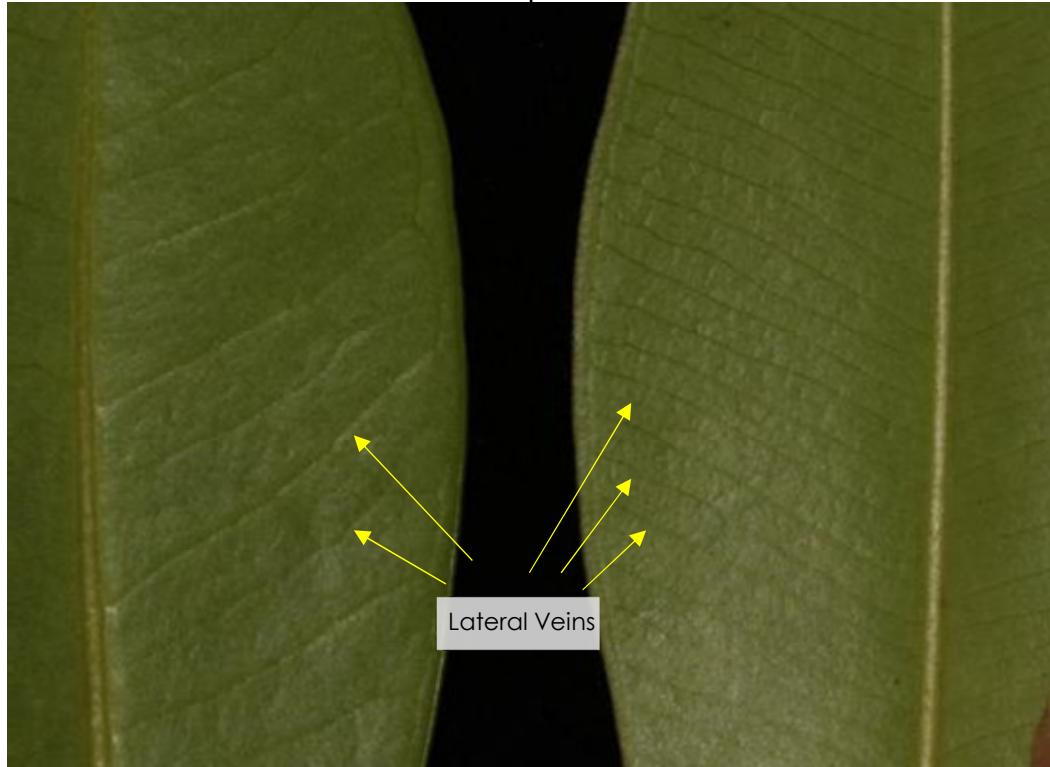
	<i>Tristaniopsis obovata</i>	<i>Tristaniopsis whiteana</i>
Bark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bark light grey-brown to dark brown</li><li>• Inner bark reddish yellow</li></ul>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bark whitish grey to coppery brown</li><li>• Inner bark whitish</li></ul>

# Character comparison

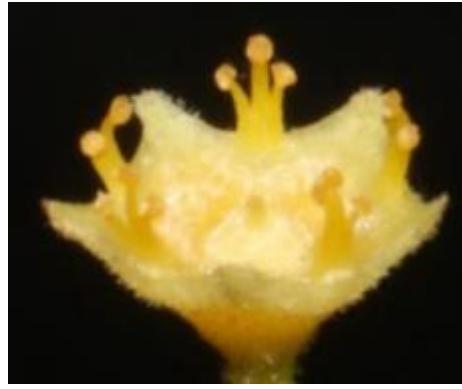
	<i>Tristaniopsis obovata</i>	<i>Tristaniopsis whiteana</i>
Mature Foliage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smaller leaves (4.5 – 10.5 cm long and 2 – 3 cm wide)</li><li>• Leaf tip notched or shortly acuminate (up to 4 mm) (Fig. 1a)</li><li>• Petiole 10 – 18 mm long</li></ul>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Larger leaves (7 – 17 cm long and 2.5 – 4.5 cm wide)</li><li>• Leaf tip sharply acute (Fig. 1b)</li><li>• Petiole 5 – 12 mm long</li></ul>  

## Character comparison

	<i>Tristaniopsis obovata</i>	<i>Tristaniopsis whiteana</i>
Lateral veins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lateral veins less densely distributed</li><li>• 17 pairs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lateral veins more densely distributed</li><li>• 54 – 92 pairs</li></ul>



# Character comparison

	<i>Tristaniopsis obovata</i>	<i>Tristaniopsis whiteana</i>
Flowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inflorescence branches up to 3 times</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inflorescence branches up to 5 times</li></ul> 
Stamens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 – 5 stamens per cluster</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 or 3 stamens per cluster</li></ul> 

# Character comparison

	<i>Tristaniopsis obovata</i>	<i>Tristaniopsis whiteana</i>
Fruits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ellipsoid and larger in size (~9 mm long and 5 mm diameter)</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ellipsoid and smaller in size (~4 mm long and 3.5 mm diameter)</li></ul>  © Cerlin Ng

## Reference

Ashton, P.S. (2011). Myrtaceae s.l. In: Soepadmo, E., Saw, L.G., Chung, R.C.K. & Kiew, R. (eds) Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak 7: 87–330. Malaysia: Sabah Forestry Department, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Sarawak Forestry Department.

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