

A Field Guide to the
Plants of
MacRitchie

**Shrubs and Herbaceous Plants
(A to D)**



MacRitchie Reservoir Park

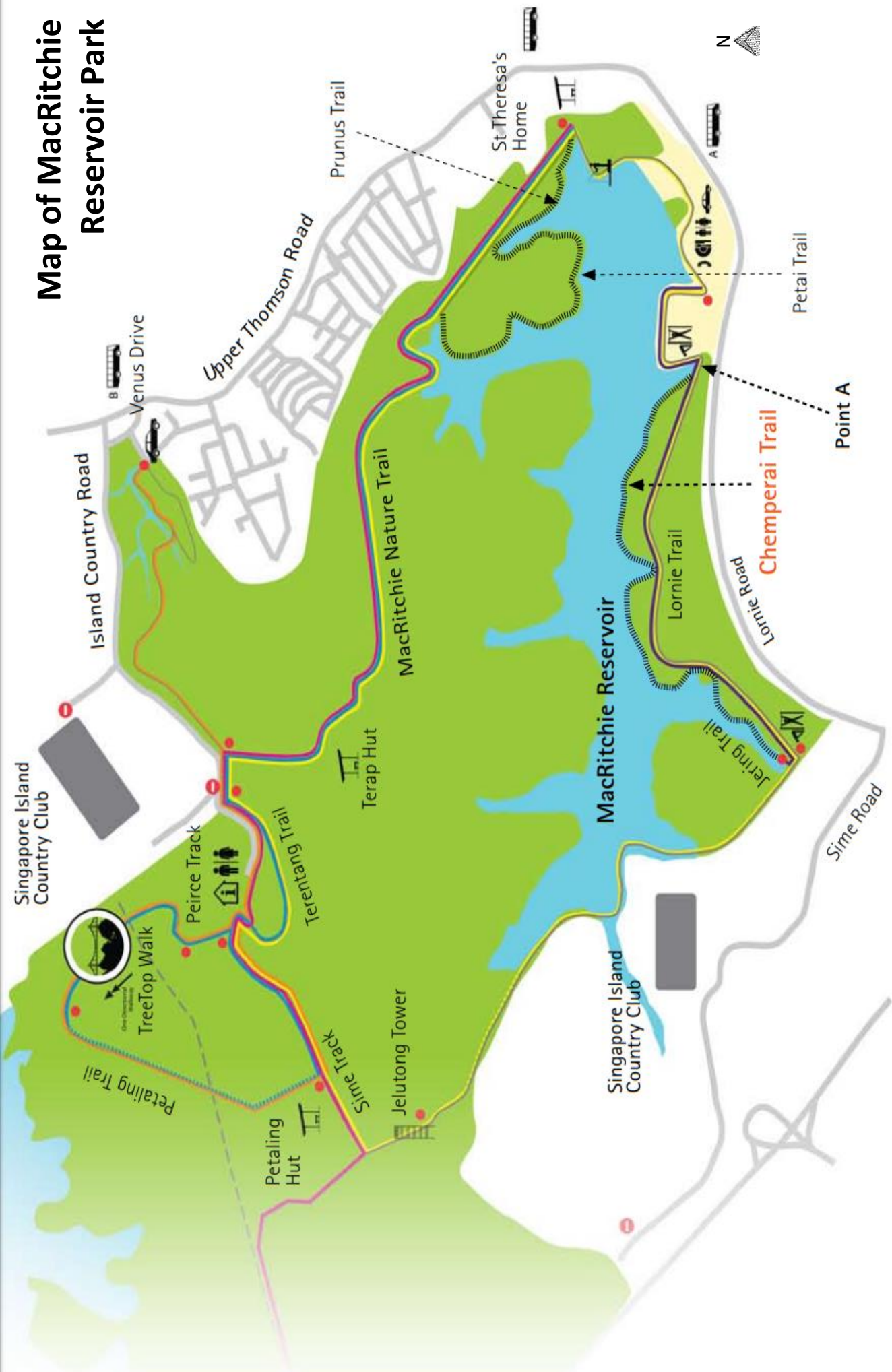
Introduction

Completed in 1867, MacRitchie Reservoir Park is Singapore's first reservoir, supplying water for the growing population of the British trading port. Originally named 'Impounding Reservoir', the reservoir was renamed after James MacRitchie in 1922, the Municipal Engineer of Singapore (1883 to 1895), to commemorate his achievement of repairing the water supply and expanding the reservoir.

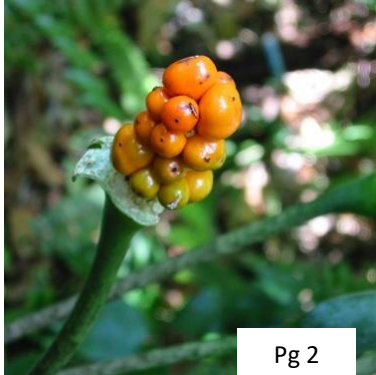
MacRitchie Reservoir Park was opened in 1967, and has evolved into a 12-hectare nature park, rich in biodiversity, and a popular destination for nature and sports activities like jogging, taichi, canoeing, as well as nature and lifestyle photography for social media and weddings.

There are 12 trails throughout the park, each with unique flora and fauna waiting for curious eyes to discover. Most of the trails are designed to blend into the natural surroundings ranging from unpaved road, covered with leaf litter or wooden boardwalks winding beneath the canopy.

Map of MacRitchie Reservoir Park



Content Page





Oblong-shaped leaves



Linear-shaped leaves

Aglaonema simplex Malayan Sword



Species Name: *Aglaonema simplex*

Family: Araceae

Common Name: Malayan Sword, Sumpuh Bulan

Distribution: Southeast Asia

Conservation Status: Native to Singapore (Common)

Aglaonema simplex is a herb which can grow from 15 to 120 cm tall. It is recognisable by its narrow oblong to linear shaped, green leaves with obvious secondary veins.

Found in primary and secondary forests, along rivers, streams and in wet areas. It occurs locally in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, forests at Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Mandai, Singapore Botanic Gardens' Rain Forest and Nee Soon.



Alocasia longiloba

Keladi Rimau



Species Name: *Alocasia longiloba*

Family: Araceae

Common Name: Keladi Rimau, Keladi Ular, Birah Kijang, Birah Hitam

Distribution: China, throughout Indochina, Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Sumatra, Java, to Borneo and Sulawesi

Conservation Status: Native to Singapore (Common)

Alocasia longiloba can grow up to 150 cm tall with a thickened lower stem (corm) up to 60 cm long. The striking mottled chocolate brown pattern on the leaf stalk and the large arrow-shaped leaves, make this a striking ornamental plant.

It has a wide range of wild natural habitats including swamp forests, bamboo thickets, cliffs, limestone, in forest regrowths, on exposed cliffs and ravines, and river banks.



Juvenile form



Adult form

Alocasia macrorrhizos

Giant Taro



Species Name: *Alocasia macrorrhizos*

Family: Araceae

Common Name: Giant Taro, Elephant's Ear

Distribution: Tropical Asia to Oceania

Conservation Status: Exotic (Naturalized)

Alocasia macrorrhizos is a large herbaceous plant that grows up to 4 m tall. It is treasured for its large ornamental glossy leaves that resembles an elephant's ear. The leaf blade is massive and measures up to 1.2 m long. In parts of India, Bangladesh and Malaysia, the tuberous stem is peeled and cooked as vegetable in stews.

It grows along forest margin and roadside ditches.



Amischotolype gracilis



Species Name: *Amischotolype gracilis*

Family: Commelinaceae

Common Name: -

Distribution: Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Sumatra, Borneo

Conservation Status: Native to Singapore (Common)

Amischotolype gracilis can grow up to 2.5 m tall, often propped up with stilt roots. Its leaves are narrowly elliptic in shape with a green coloured upper surface and a green to purple coloured lower surface. Small white to purple flowers are borne in clusters at the nodes.

It can be found in primary to secondary rainforests, as well as swampy forests and on slopes. It thrives in shaded conditions, on granite, clay and alluvial soil.



Chassalia curviflora



Species Name: *Chassalia curviflora*

Family: Rubiaceae

Common Name: Pechah Piring Puteh

Distribution: Southeast Asia

Conservation Status: Native to Singapore
(Vulnerable)

Chassalia curviflora can grow up to 2 m tall. Its oppositely stalked leaves are elliptic to obovate in shape. Bright white flower are tinged with purple and sometimes curved, standing out in the dark understorey – its natural habitat. They are pollinated by insects, and the resulting fruit are eaten by birds.

It can be found in the understorey of hill to lowland forests and freshwater swamp forests, occurring locally in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Singapore Botanic Gardens' Rain Forest and Pulau Ubin.



Clerodendrum deflexum

Nodding Witch's Tongue



Species Name: *Clerodendrum deflexum*

Family: Lamiaceae

Common Name: Nodding Witch's Tongue, Setawar Bukit

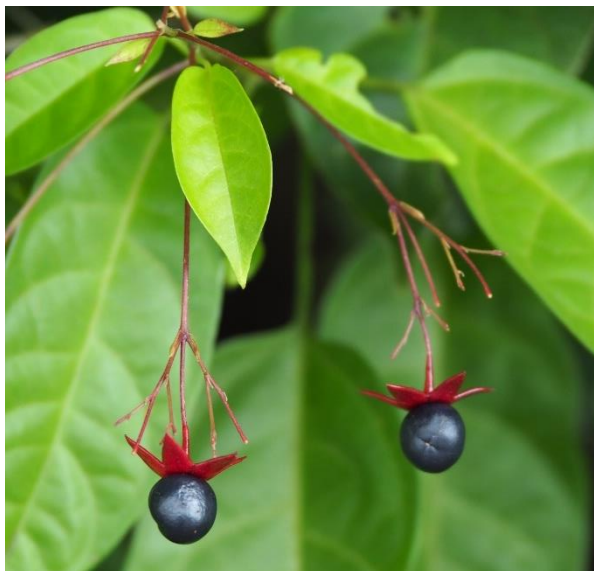
Distribution: Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore

Conservation Status: Native to Singapore (Vulnerable)

Clerodendrum deflexum is a shrub that can grow to 1 m tall. Its branches are often inhabited by ants.

Its tubular flowers are light yellow to white in colour, and arranged in clusters surrounded by showy red bracts. Its round fruit are purplish-black, pulpy, and contains 1 pear-shaped seed.

It grows in tropical rainforests, occurring locally in the Singapore Live Firing Area (Sarimbun), Upper Seletar Reservoir, Mandai Forest, Nee Soon Swamp Forest, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and Bukit Kallang.



Clerodendrum disparifolium

Swaddling Flower



Species Name: *Clerodendrum disparifolium*

Family: Lamiaceae

Common Name: Swaddling Flower, Guriam,

Distribution: Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Borneo, and Java

Conservation Status: Native to Singapore (Common)

Clerodendrum disparifolium is a shrub that can grow to become a small slender tree. After pollination, the light yellow flowers develop into round fruit which ripen from a dull green to black. They are attached to a crimson star-like structure formed by the surviving outer flower parts (calyx). The fruit are eaten and dispersed by birds. The leaves are the preferred local food plant for caterpillars of the Fluffy Tit butterfly (*Zeltus amasa maximinianus*).

They can be found in lowland and hillside forests and forest-edges, up to 1280m altitude.



Clerodendrum villosum



Species Name: *Clerodendrum villosum*

Family: Lamiaceae

Common Name: -

Distribution: India to Southeast Asia

Conservation Status: Native to Singapore (Vulnerable)

Clerodendrum villosum is a shrub that can grow to become a small tree. Its leaves are densely covered in soft, often thick velvety, white hairs. Free flowering and fruiting throughout the year, clusters of white flowers with long stigmas occur at the branch tips. Its fruit are round and ripens from green to black, offering a stark contrast to the white star-like structure formed by the persistent flower parts (calyx).

They grow along forest margins, in open areas, and waste land, occurring locally in Nee Soon Swamp Forest, Pulau Tekong and in the vicinity of Old Upper Thompson Road and Seletar Reservoir



Dendrobium leonis

The Lion-like Dendrobium



Species Name: *Dendrobium leonis*

Family: Orchidaceae

Common Name: The Lion-like Dendrobium

Distribution: Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Sumatra.

Conservation Status: Native to Singapore (Presumed Nationally Extinct)

Dendrobium leonis is a lowland epiphytic orchid with multiple tufted stems and can grow up to 25 cm in length. Leaves are triangular-shaped and arranged in alternating rows. Flowers occur singly at the tip of stems.

Their natural habitat include limestone cliffs, warm, humid lowland forests up to elevations of 1100 m. They have been re-introduced into MacRitchie and can be found on tree trunks.





Dendrophthoe pentandra

Malayan Mistletoe



Species Name: *Dendrophthoe pentandra*

Family: Loranthaceae

Common Name: Malayan Mistletoe

Distribution: From eastern India to Malesia

Conservation Status: Native to Singapore (Common)

Dendrophthoe pentandra is a parasitic, woody shrub that grows on trees. Reaching up to 2 m in height, its cylindrical flowers are pink to orange in colour, and the stamens and stigma protrude out of the flower mouth. Birds feed on the red berry-like fruit and play an important role in the dispersal of its seeds.

They can be found on many host tree species like *Aleurites moluccana*, *Clausena lansium* etc. in rainforests, mangroves and plantations, up to elevations of 1650 m.



Dillenia suffruticosa

Simpoh Air



Species Name: *Dillenia suffruticosa*

Family: Dilleniaceae

Common Name: Simpoh Air, Yellow Simpoh

Distribution: Southeast Asia

Conservation Status: Native to Singapore (Common)

Dillenia suffruticosa is a large shrub that grows up to 7 m tall and often form thickets. Free flowering throughout the year bearing showy large, yellow flowers that last only a day. Its fruit splits open into a star when ripe, revealing seeds covered in a fleshy red aril. The Simpoh Air has very deep taproots to reach underground water sources. As a pioneer species, it helps to create a shady environment that support the growth and succession of low-light species. The large leaves are traditionally used to wrap food such as tempeh, or formed into shallow cones as a container to hold rojak.

They can be found along streams, and forest margin, up to 500 m altitude.



Dracaena fragrans

Corn Palm



Species Name: *Dracaena fragrans*

Family: Asparagaceae

Common Name: Corn Palm

Distribution: West Africa

Conservation Status: Exotic (Horticultural)

Dracaena fragrans it is a shrub or small tree that can reach 15 m tall. The smaller, younger leaves are erect and spreading, while older leaves tend to droop. Flowers form in clusters and are white with a thin red-purple line along the middle of the petal. They are strongly fragrant intensifying at night, attracting bees. The fruit is berry-like and turns reddish-orange when ripe.

They can be found in abandoned villages, disturbed forests and are commonly planted in home gardens.





Dracaena porteri

Jarum- jarum



Species Name: *Dracaena porteri*

Family: Asparagaceae

Common Name: Jarum - jarum

Distribution: Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore

Conservation Status: Native to Singapore (Common)



Dracaena porteri is a shrub that can grow up to 1.5 m tall. Its leaves are linear and leathery reaching 40 cm in length. The white flowers occur in loose clusters of 2-3 per stalk and are insect pollinated. Its fruit are round and red when mature and seeds are likely eaten and dispersed by birds or mammals.

Its natural habitat include lowland forests, often in wet areas and can be found locally in Pulau Tekong, the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, along Chestnut Avenue and Bukit Timah Nature Reserve.



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