Additions to the Flora of Singapore, III.


1School of Biological Sciences
National University of Singapore
Singapore 119260

2Singapore Botanic Gardens
Cluny Road
Singapore 259569

Abstract

Eleven species are added to the flora of Singapore as presented by Turner (1993). Lecanopteris sinuosa (Polypodiaceae) was mistakenly omitted from that list. Records of Dischidia complex (Asclepiadaceae), Grenacheria fulva (Myrsinaceae) and Microcos globulifera (Tiliaceae) were also overlooked. Mangifera pulchra (Anacardiaceae) has recently been described from a pre-War Singapore collection. Combretum tetralophum (Combretaceae), Korthalsia flagellaris (Palmae), Pouteria linggensis (Sapotaceae) and Sindora corticea (Leguminosae) are native species that have newly been collected for the first time in Singapore. The successful naturalization of Justicia procumbens (Acanthaceae) and Macroptilium atropurpureum (Leguminosae) is reported.

Introduction

In this series of articles on the flora of Singapore, we have taken the list published by Turner (1993) as the reference point for the composition of the flora. Subsequently species found growing wild in Singapore that are not included in the list have been reported. In the current paper eleven more species are added to the list. Nomenclature follows Turner (1995) wherever possible.

1. Combretum tetralophum C.B. Clarke Combretaceae

Large liana or scendent shrub with spikes of small sweet-smelling flowers. The fruits are ovoid to 4 cm long, with four distinct, longitudinal, sharp-edged wings or ridges. The species is characteristic of lowland river margins and back mangroves and is probably dispersed by water. It occurs from Indo-China to the Pacific, though it is absent from the Philippines (Exell, 1954 p. 54I). Its occurrence in Singapore is therefore not surprising, but it

has eluded detection for many years, until recently when it was collected in fruit on Pulau Semakau (H.T.W. Tan et al. SI005, 27 September 96 SINU).

2. *Dischidia complex* Griff. Asclepiadaceae

A twining epiphyte with pitcher-like leaves (Rintz, 1980 p. 97) found in lowland forest. It is known from the south of the Malay Peninsula and Borneo. At least one Singapore collection is known (E.J.H. Corner s.n., January 1933, Jurong SING), but it is probably extinct today.

3. *Grenacheria fulva* (Mez) Airy Shaw Myrsinaceae

A climbing shrub (in Stone 1989 p. 279 as *Embelia fulva* Mez) it was once collected (E.J.H. Corner SFN 26195, 5 March 1933 SING) from the swamp forests that covered Jurong before development of the area took place. The species is endemic to the Malay Peninsula and Borneo, and is probably now extinct in Singapore.

4. *Justicia procumbens* L. Acanthaceae

Small prostrate herb, creeping, to 60 cm long, with small, terminal spikes of zygomorphic flowers which have pale pink-purple corollas with darker markings. It is included in Mohamad Soerjani et al. (1987 p. 28) under its synonym *Rostellularia sundana* Bremek. It was first collected in Singapore by Ahamed (16 October 1954) along Mandai Road. It still occurs in that area (I.M. Turner 93-6, 3 January 1993, Mandai Lake Road SINU), but recently appears to have become more common. It is a frequent weed of short mown grass around Holland Village, and has also been seen along Alexandra Road. It appears to be another example of a weedy species filling an empty niche in urban Singapore.

5. *Korthalsia flagellaris* Miq. Palmae

Large clustering rattan to 40 m in length readily distinguished by its almost unarmed stems, and bright green leaflets which are covered with a red-brown indumentum on the lower surface (Dransfield, 1979 p. 42). The leaflets are sessile, but the base of the lamina is tightly, longitudinally folded forming a flexible petiole-like connection to the rachis. Dransfield reports this species as being confined to peat swamp forest. In Singapore it has recently been found in the Nee Soon swamp forest (D.H. Murphy s.n., 23 December 1994 SING; I.M. Turner & P.P. Kumar 18 SINU), which is
freshwater swamp with relatively little peat accumulation. *Korthalsia flagellaris* is found in the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo, and has presumably been overlooked in Singapore until now.

6. *Lecanopteris sinuosa* (Wall. ex Hook.) Copel. *Polypodiaceae*

This species was mistakenly omitted from the Singapore species list (Turner 1993). It is the commoner of the ant-inhabited epiphytic ferns to be found in Singapore (Johnson, 1977 p. 50 under the synonym *Phymatodes sinuosa* (Wall. ex Hook.) J.Sm.).

7. *Macroptilium atropurpureum* (DC.) Urban *Leguminosae*

A twining perennial herb with hairy trifoliate leaves that appear distinctly silvery and with very dark purple, almost black, flowers. It is native of tropical America, but has been used throughout the tropics as a forage and soil-binding plant (Jones & ‘t Mannetje, 1992 pp. 155-156). It has become quite common on reclaimed land on Pulau Tekong where it was collected recently (H.T.W. Tan et al. T2033, 20 August 1996 SINU). It seems highly likely that this species will join its congener *Macroptilium lathyroides* (L.) Urban as a frequent colonist of dry open waste ground in Singapore.

8. *Mangifera paludosa* Kosterm. *Anacardiaceae*

This species was recently described by Kostermans (Kostermans & Bompard, 1993 p. 41) with *Corner SFN 26193* collected from Jurong as the holotype. It is a tree to 30 m tall found in freshwater swamp forest, often behind mangroves and is known from the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra. There can be little doubt that the species is no longer to be found in Jurong.

In the same work, Kostermans also described *Mangifera subsessilifolia* based on a Singapore type collected at Bukit Timah. However, this species is known only from sterile material. Kostermans also referred a sterile collection from the former swamp forest at Mandai Road (*Kiah s.n. 24 July 1940 SING*) to *Mangifera magnifica* Kochummen, a species not previously recorded from Singapore. We leave final acceptance of these species to whomever prepares the account of the Anacardiaceae for the Angiosperm Flora of Singapore.

9. *Microcos globulifera* (Mast.) Burret *Tiliaceae*

This small tree of lowland forest (Kochummen, 1972 p. 397 under the
synonym *Grewia globulifera* Mast.) has escaped the notice of compilers of the Singapore flora. It has been collected in the Botanic Gardens’ Jungle (*Hassan SFN 36267 25 April 1939 SING*) and Bukit Timah (*Ngadiman SFN 36416 4 May 1939 SING*). The species is endemic to the Malay Peninsula.

### 10. *Pouteria linggensis* (Burck) Baehni Sapotaceae

A tree to 20 m tall found on rocky shores and occasionally inland (Ng, 1972 p. 436 under the synonym *Planchonella linggensis* (Burck) Pierre). The species is found throughout Malesia and was recently discovered on Pulau Sakijang Pelepa (Lazarus Island) (*H.T.W. Tan et al. LI001 SING*).

### 11. *Sindora coriacea* (Baker) Prain Leguminosae

A big forest tree reaching more than 30 m in height, distinguished from the other Malay Peninsula species of the genus by its shiny leaflets which are glabrous beneath and its unarmed pods. The pods shown in Fig. 1 were photographed in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve by Ali Ibrahim, but no herbarium specimen was made. Later he collected a fertile specimen from Mandai, Central Catchment Nature Reserve (*Wong, Ali & Chew 16, 23 Nov 1992 SING*). A further sterile collection (*A.H.B. Loo et al. 83, 29 Oct 1996 SING*) was gathered at Bukit Kallang. The species is common

![Figure 1. Pods and seeds of *Sindora coriacea* found in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Singapore.](image)
throughout Malaya and also occurs in Sumatra and Borneo. Presumably its apparent rarity and confusion with other species of Sindora have hitherto led to it being overlooked in Singapore.

References


