

***Smythea lanceata* at Mandai mangroves**

Subject: *Smythea lanceata* (Magnoliophyta: Rhamnaceae).

Subject identified by: Parusuraman s/o Sethembaran Athen.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Mandai mangroves; 23 December 2014; 1800 hrs.

Habitat: Back mangrove.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: This mangrove climber was found growing on another plant (Fig. 1). It was observed flowering in November 2014. In December 2014, it was both flowering (Fig. 2) and fruiting. The fruits, in their initial stages, were about 4 mm in length (Fig. 3). Samples of this plant were collected on 23 December 2014 and deposited under the catalogue number SING 2014-386, in the Singapore Herbarium at the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

Remarks: *Smythea lanceata* is regarded as a ‘critically endangered’ species in Singapore (Chong et al., 2009). The species was reported from the Kranji Nature Trail in August 2011 by Yeo (2013). It was first found at Mandai mangroves in November 2014, during a survey by staff of the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. The distinctive zigzag stem (Fig. 4) and flowers (Fig. 2) are as described by Primavera & Sadaba (2012).



Fig. 1. *Smythea lanceata* at Mandai mangroves. Photograph by Benjamin C. Lee



Fig. 2. Flowers of *Smythea lanceata*.



Fig. 3. Fruit of *Smythea lanceata* (about 4 mm).



Fig. 4. Distinctive zigzag stems of *Smythea lanceata* as seen from above.

Photographs by Benjamin C. Lee

References:

- Chong, K. Y., H. T. W. Tan & R. T. Corlett, 2009. *A Checklist of the Total Vascular Plant Flora of Singapore: Native, Naturalised and Cultivated Species*. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 273 pp.
- Primavera, J. H. & R. B. Sadaba, 2012. *Beach Forest Species and Mangrove Associates in the Philippines*. SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Tigbauan, Iloilo. 154 pp.
- Yeo, R. K. H., 2013. *Smythea lanceata* at Kranji. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 38.

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