

City in bloom

Singapore's biggest plant census has beyond doubt that the country is a city in a garden. More than 3,000 plant species – including newly discovered ones and those that were thought to be extinct but have made a comeback – are being recorded in a 14-volume opus expected to be completed in 2027. **Vanessa Liu** highlights some species that can be found here.

NATIVE

Ixora congesta

- Can be found in forests of Singapore as it thrives and blooms in areas with bright, indirect light.



Kopsia singaporensis

- Native to Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore.
- Can be found growing naturally in the Nee Soon Swamp Forest within the Central Catchment Nature Reserve.
- Critically endangered in Singapore.



ENDEMIC

Zingiber singaporense

- Endemic to Singapore, meaning that this is the only place in the world where the species is known to occur in the wild.
- Can be found in Singapore's primary forests in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve.



THOUGHT TO BE EXTINCT HERE, BUT WAS REDISCOVERED

Jasminanthes maingayi

- A critically endangered rainforest climber previously thought to be extinct in Singapore.
- It was rediscovered in the vicinity of MacRitchie Reservoir, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, in 2012.



NEW TO SINGAPORE

Dischidia acutifolia

- A sample collected from Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve in 2013 was discovered to be *Dischidia acutifolia* – a new record for Singapore.
- Prior to this discovery, it was known to be present from Thailand to the Moluccas in Indonesia.



NEW TO SINGAPORE, AND GROWS ONLY IN CERTAIN SPACES HERE*



Microchites lancifolius

- Collected for the first time in Singapore in 2016.
- In Singapore, it can be found only in Nee Soon Swamp Forest.

EXTINCT IN SINGAPORE BUT REINTRODUCED

Ochrosia oppositifolia

- A small to medium-sized mainly coastal tree up to 45m tall.
- In Singapore, it became extinct in the 19th century but has been reintroduced to Coney Island Park.



Photo taken in Thailand.

Hoya caudata

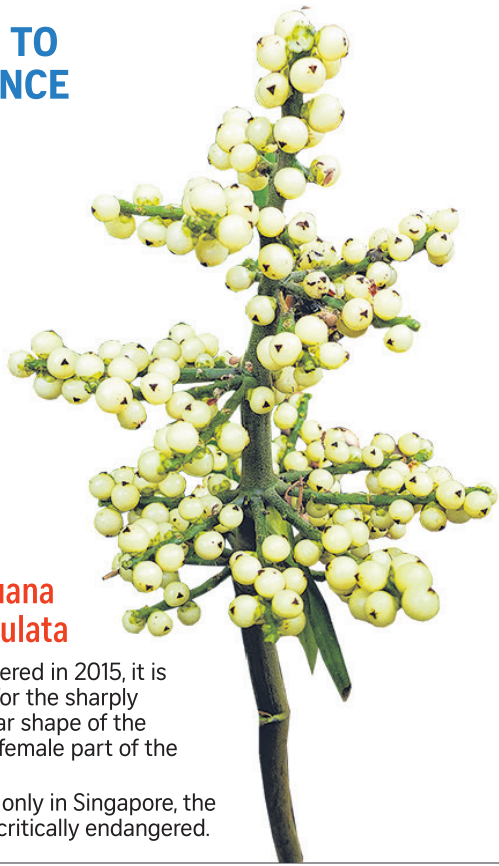
- Collected for the first time in Singapore in 2013.
- In Singapore, it can be found only in Nee Soon Swamp Forest.



NEW TO SCIENCE

Hanguana triangulata

- Discovered in 2015, it is named for the sharply triangular shape of the stigma (female part of the flower).
- Found only in Singapore, the plant is critically endangered.



Hanguana rubinea

- Discovered in 2015, it is named for its ruby-red and dark pink fruits that produce yellow juice when disturbed.
- Has been found in Bukit Timah, Mandai, MacRitchie and Seletar.

Utania nervosa

- A small tree that grows up to 5m tall.
- It was described as a new species in 2014 and is found in Johor and Singapore.
- In Singapore, it can be found in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve and on Pulau Ubin and Pulau Tekong.



SPECIES NOT USUALLY FOUND IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD BUT DISCOVERED IN SINGAPORE

Spigelia anthelmia

- Native to tropical and subtropical America, but is naturalised in Singapore and can be found in parks and gardens here.



Myrmecodia tuberosa

- Has a modified stem that is hollow with a network of tunnels for ants to live in.

ABOUT THE BOOK SERIES FLORA OF SINGAPORE

More than **3,000** plant species to be catalogued, including

100 newly discovered in the last two years and

140 that were thought to be extinct but were rediscovered

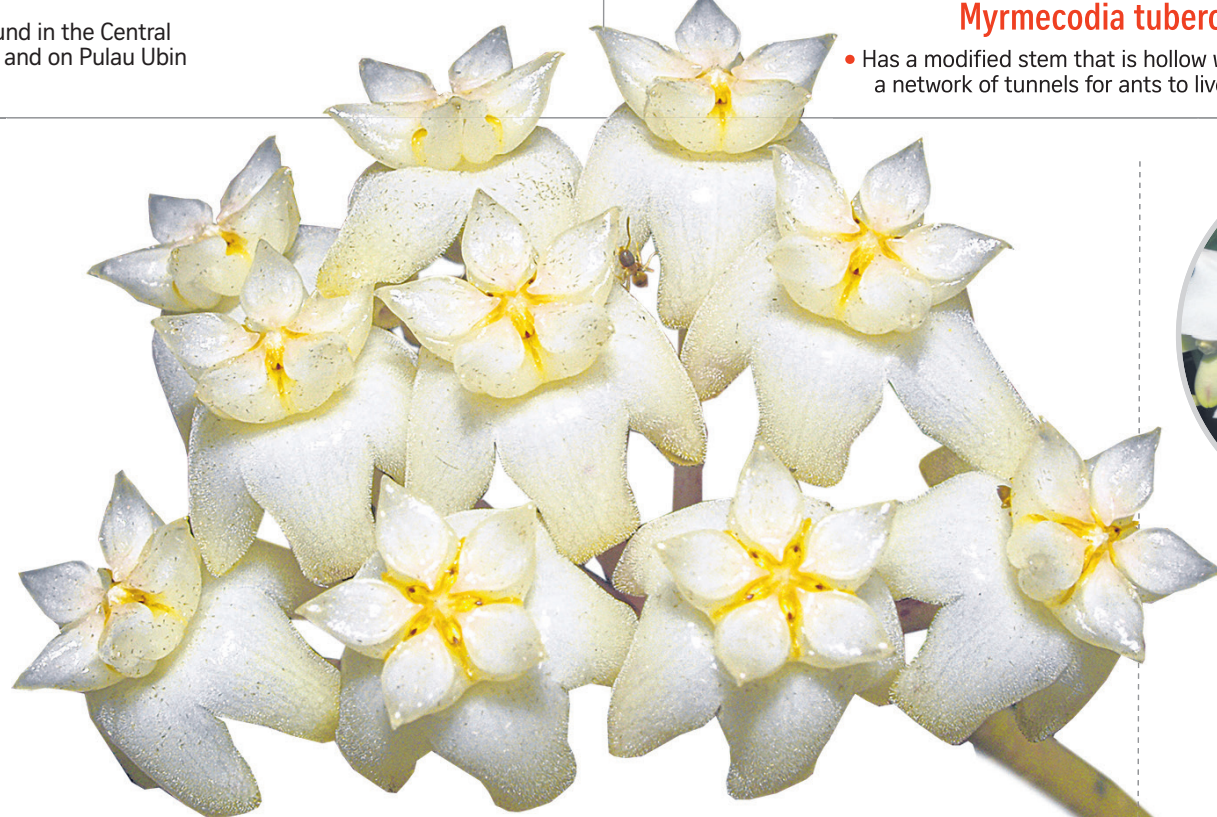
14 volumes

13 genera of plant species

3 volumes have been published so far, including the introduction volume

Over **100** experts from Singapore and overseas involved

Started **2** years ago, will take **10** years to compile



OTHER INTERESTING SPECIES

Hoya verticillata

- A tropical climbing plant with beautiful white flowers. The flowers have a minty or fruity fragrance and make a popping sound as they open.



Cerbera manghas

- A small coastal tree that grows up to 20m tall and has beautiful pink-eyed flowers.
- Listed as "critically endangered" on the Red List of threatened plants of Singapore.