

## MEDIA FACTSHEET

### 'Flora of Singapore' project

The 'Flora of Singapore' is a project spearheaded by the Singapore Botanic Gardens under the National Parks Board (NParks). It aims to catalogue and describe all the plant species that can be found in Singapore, from mosses to flowering plants. This is similar to the work done by the botanical pioneers of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, such as Henry Ridley, EJH Corner and Nathaniel Cantley.

The 'Flora of Singapore' will be published in 14 volumes and will take around 10 years to complete. It will be researched and compiled by the staff of Singapore Botanic Gardens along with collaborators from Singapore and throughout the world.

For the first time, all available information will be available in a comprehensive collection, along with keys to identify plant species, illustrations, and data on their distributions and conservation needs.

#### **Background**

A comprehensive Flora of Singapore is needed as Singapore has already lost a great deal of its original biodiversity through deforestation and the degradation of its remaining natural habitats. It is only through an understanding of what remains and where it is found can well-informed conservation policy be formulated and future reintroductions be planned.

The 'Flora of Singapore' will include the native, naturalised and casual species found in Singapore. Native species are plants that occur naturally in a particular area without direct or indirect human intervention. Naturalised species are species of plants that are not native in Singapore but have become established outside of cultivation and have formed self-replacing, usually sexually-reproducing populations. Casual species are plants that are not native in Singapore and do not form self-replacing populations but may be found outside of cultivation due to repeated introductions or limited asexual reproduction.

The new Flora can build on earlier projects which in turn relied on the pioneering work of early botanists such as Henry Ridley and his monumental 'Flora of the Malay Peninsula' (Ridley, 1922–1925), which included Singapore. Each of these projects added to our knowledge but a new comprehensive Flora, along the lines of Ridley's great works, is needed to incorporate new discoveries and changes in ideas about plant classification in response to new research.

#### **Objective**

The objective is to comprehensively revise and present the approximately 3,000 species of mosses, liverworts, clubmosses, ferns, seed-producing plants and flowering plants that are native, naturalised or casual in Singapore in a comprehensive 'Flora of Singapore'.