

e-book project

The Simpur Story



Copyright ©2011

Contents

Pages

1. Background		
1. Introduction	.....	1
2. History of Simpura	.....	1
2. Types of Simpura		
1. Dillenia Suffruticosa	.....	2
2. Dillenia Beccariana	.....	4
3. Dillenia Excelsa	.....	10
4. Dillenia Sumatrana	.....	12
5. Dillenia Reticulata	.....	13
6. Dillenia Indica	.....	14
7. Dillenia Borneensis	.....	15
8. Dillenia Grandifolia	.....	15
9. Dillenia Pulchella	.....	15
3. Additional information		
1. Uses of Simpura	.....	16
References	.....	17

Chapter 1

Background

1. Introduction

Simpur flower is one of the local species commonly found in Brunei Darussalam. This flower is also symbolised as Brunei Darussalam national flower. We can see Simpup picture on \$1 Brunei dollar note, APEC 2000 logo and other places such as tourist bus. Due to the distinctive features of Simpup flower, it gives several meaning in APEC logo in year 2000. The Simpup flower stands for better Brunei economic growth. Then the green leaf shows the progress of the economic level and the fruit symbolised the investment from the Brunei's economy. Other feature is the Simpup plant is tough and can grow and lived anywhere and it is similar with the solidity of the APEC region which can withstand with any challenges ahead in order to survive especially in economic aspect.



2. History of Simpup

There are different types of Simpup found in Brunei. Each Simpup species has its own scientific name. The genus of the Simpup plant is called Dillenia and the Simpup family is known as Dilleniaceae. This name is derived from the personal name Dillenius, a German botanist (1684 -1747). There are some 60 species of Simpup found around the world. Simpup is categorised as tree however some species can be considered as shrubs.

Chapter 2

Types of Simpbur

1. *Dillenia Suffruticosa*

In Brunei Darussalam, there are eight species of Simpbur which are identified. Two of the common species found are the *Dillenia Beccariana* (the River Simpbur) and *Dillenia Suffruticosa* (Simpbur Bini). *Dillenia Suffruticosa* is the commonly found Simpbur in Brunei Darussalam. This type of Simpbur can grow at any places such as swamps, white sands region, poor soil and secondary growth. *Dillenia Suffruticosa* is mostly a shrub plants. In Brunei, *Dillenia Suffruticosa* is known as Simpbur Bini. Recently, we had found some of *Dillenia Suffruticosa* in Belait District such as Sungai Liang, Labi, along the Jalan Maulana and Panaga area. In Tutong, is along the Tutong highway. In Brunei-Muara area, we can find it around UBD area, Tungku Link, Kota Batu and Tasek Lama.

The flower of *Dillenia Suffruticosa* is big, yellow and has a white stamen. It has five petals.

Flower of *Dillenia Suffruticosa* (Location: Sungai Liang Recreational Park, Belait District)



The fruit of *Dillenia Suffruticosa* is dark pink in colour. It has a reddish orange seeds. Its fruit can be eaten by the mouse deer.

Fruit of *Dillenia Suffruticosa*



Dillenia Suffruticosa leaf is elliptic-obovate in shaped. From the picture below, it shows the branch and other parts are not hairy. The apexes of the leaves are more or slightly rounded. Veins are around 12-20 pairs.

Leaf of *Dillenia Suffruticosa*



2. Dillenia Beccariana

Dillenia Beccariana is a type of small tree with a common height of around 6 to 8 m. Dillenia Beccariana is also known as River Simpung. These types of Simpung are commonly found nearby the river and clay soil. We had found this species in Kampong Kiudang in Tutong District and also at the Muzium Teknologi Area in Brunei-Muara District. Other location that Dillenia Beccariana can be found is at Batu Apoi valley in Temburong District.

The flower of Dillenia Beccariana is similar to Dillenia Suffruticosa which is yellow in colour. It also has five petals.

Flower bud of Dillenia beccariana (Location: Kampung Kiudang, Tutong District)



Fully developed flower of Dillenia Beccariana



Picture of left behind sepals after the petals had dropped out



Petal of Dillenia Beccariana



The fruit of *Dillenia Beccariana* is different from *Dillenia Suffruticosa*. It has white flesh not pink flesh with red seeds. Fruit colour is dark pink.

Fruit of *Dillenia Beccariana* (Unopen fruit)



The unripe fruit is cut into half

The seeds are white in colour when it is unripe.



Fruit of Dillenia Beccariana (Open fruit)



Fruit of Dillenia Beccariana (Dry ripe fruit)



The shape of Dillenia Beccariana leaf is oblong. The branch and other parts including the leaves are hairy. Apex of the leaf is slightly rounded. The leaf has a teeth margin with veins 20-30 pairs.

Branch of Dillenia Beccariana



Leaves of Dillenia Beccariana



3. Dillenia Excelsa

The other type of Simpbur that is rarely found in Brunei is Dillenia excelsa or also known as Simpbur Laki. This type of Simpbur is usually planted or found in few areas in Brunei. Some of the places that Dillenia excelsa can be found are at the Sungai Liang Recreational Park, in front of the building of the Brunei Arts and Crafts Centre in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The flower of Dillenia Excelsa is different from any other Simpbur. It has a purple stamen. The colour of the petals is pale yellow.

Flower of Dillenia Excelsa (Location: Kampung Rimba, Brunei-Muara District)



The fruit colour is slightly pink.

Fruit of Dillenia Excelsa (Unopen fruit)



Fruit of Dillenia Excelsa (Open fruit)



The branch and other parts are not hairy. Its leaf is base-wedged shaped. The stalk is 2-5 cm long. It has 10-13 pairs of veins.

Leaf of Dillenia Excelsa



4. *Dillenia Sumatrana*

On the other hand, there is also other type of Simpbur Laki known as *Dillenia Sumatrana*. This kind of Simpbur is found in subcanopy area. The leaf blade is broad with tooth margin. The flower is yellow in colour same like other species. Fruit is indehiscent. This type of Simpbur is common in Brunei lowland and sandy clay soil in Belait and Tutong Districts.

The feature of the leaf is narrowly elliptic-obovate with tooth margin. It has veins of 15-20 pairs and tertiary veins are net-like.

Leaves of *Dillenia Sumatrana* (Location: Kampung Labi, Belait District)



Fruits of *Dillenia Sumatrana*



5. *Dillenia reticulata*

Dillenia reticulata is another Simpup that we can found in Brunei. This Simpup is known as Simpup Gajah. It is found in the deep forest area. Some of the places that we can found Simpup Gajah are around Andulau Forest Reserve in Belait District and also in Ulu Belait.

The colour of the flower is the same as other Simpup that is yellow in colour.

Flower of *Dillenia Reticulata*



The feature of the leaf is slightly broad and has a ladder - like veins.

Leaf and fruit of *Dillenia Reticulata*



6. Dillenia Indica

Dillenia Indica is another type of Simpbur. This species is not native in Brunei. Dillenia Indica is from South Asia and Indo-Burma to Java and Borneo.

This species have unique features of flower and fruit. The flower is white in colour instead of yellow like the common species in Brunei. Leaf feature is oblong in shape with toothed margin and wedge base and short apex. It has 25-50 veins pairs.

Flower and leaf of Dillenia Indica



Fruit of Dillenia Indica is spherical but it is not splitting. In this picture it shows, the flesh is still intact. The green skin covering is very hard and protective.

Fruit of Dillenia Indica



7. *Dillenia Borneensis*

Dillenia Borneensis is a tree type Simpbur. Its common height is 40 m tall. This type of Simpbur can be found at Temburong District around Kuala Belalong area. However, according to some facts, this Simpbur is rarely found around Brunei.

The colour of the flower is pale yellow. However, the fruit of *Dillenia Borneensis* is not being found. Leaf feature is oblong in shape with wedge base and acute apex. It has 25-35 veins pairs.

8. *Dillenia Grandifolia*

Dillenia Grandifolia is another type of Simpbur which is uncommon in Brunei. It is also known as Simpbur Daun Merah. However, this Simpbur is known from Ulu Ingei and Andulau Reserve Forest. In Temburong District which is in Amo and Kuala Belalong.

This species have unique features of flower and fruit. The flower has no petals and it is greenish yellow in colour. Fruit of *Dillenia Grandifolia* is spherical but it is not splitting. Leaf feature is oblong in shape with wedge base and acute apex. It has 18-28 veins pairs.

9. *Dillenia Pulchella*

Dillenia Pulchella is another type of Simpbur. It is also known as Simpbur Paya. In Brunei, this species is found in mixed peat swamp forest, swampy kerangas and also near the coast.

The flower is yellow in colour. Fruit is dehiscent. Leaf feature is elliptic obovate, flat, base wedged shaped and round apex. It has 6-8 veins pairs.

Chapter 3

Additional information

1. Uses of Simpur

Dillenia Suffruticosa (Simpur Bini)

Simpur Bini has variety of traditional uses. For example, the young leaves of Simpur Bini can be used as a plaster in order to prevent bleeding, wound and cure fever. However, the most common use of Simpur is the leaves. The Simpur leaves are used to wrap food such as '*tapai*' or fermented rice. It leaves can also use to wrap marinated fish known as '*pais*' in Brunei context.

Dillenia Excelsa (Simpur Laki)

Simpur Bini has variety of traditional uses. The most common use is as medicinal use by some people in Brunei. Some facts mention that the bark and fruit are used to treat diarrhoea.

Dillenia Indica

Dillenia Indica has several uses. In some countries, the sweet fruits are used as flavouring in curries and jellies. Other than that, the fruits are also can be made into fruit pickles. This is because the fruits are edible and also act as an anti-oxidant.

In terms of medical uses, the fruit is used to treat cough. Other use is the fruit pulp used by some people as hair shampoo or hair wash.

Dillenia Sumatrana

Dillenia Sumatrana is used for house construction. The wood is said to be hard and durable.

Other use

Simpur plant is also used as the guide for water availability indicator.

References

Website

Yunos, R. (2009, September 18). Brunei's National Flower? [Blog post]. Retrieved 23 October 2011, from <http://bruneiresources.blogspot.com/2009/09/bruneis-national-flower.html>

Books

Ashton, P.S., Kamariah, A.S. & Md. Said, I. (2003). A Field Guide to the Forest Trees of Brunei Darussalam and the northwest Borneo hotspot, Vol 1. Brunei Darussalam : Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Thurman, J. & Poh Ai-Cheong, L. (2008). Some Common Plants and Animals in Brunei Darussalam. Brunei Darussalam : Universiti Brunei Darussalam

