

2009 天文台開放日生態遊—附加資料

若因前方有其他參觀組別停留，而未能前進去介紹另一棵樹；又或是希望在生態遊內向參觀者介紹更多有趣資料時，不妨可介紹以下一些資料：

I. 關於天文台內之宿舍

一如其他政府部門，天文台亦建有政府宿舍供天文台較高級之職員居住，以方便他們於突發情況時，方便他們回到天文台工作(例如颱風、暴雨……等)。

大家亦會留意到在天文台 1883 大樓旁建有一棟宿舍大樓，可留意到它的建築風格帶有歐洲色彩，因這棟宿舍是建於 1933 年的殖民時代。此台長宿舍(1 號宿舍)於 1934 年落成以後，台長便不再於 1883 大樓內住宿(過往的天文台台長是可住在 1883 大樓的上層的)。而現任台長則是現時 1 號宿舍的住客。

II. 樹林小亭前的「奠基石」、談到「地磁觀測」

原來天文台的早期的工作除了氣象觀測外，還包括「地磁觀測」。

其實地球就有如一大磁鐵，而地球磁力的北方(磁北方)不是恆定不變，而是會因地球物理因素而有所變化。而由於準確探測地球的磁北方(magnetic north)對當時航運有所幫助，亦有助了解實質方向，因此，早期天文台便需測量地上的磁方向(例如地面石屎裏的鐵的磁方向排列)，去了解磁北方的變化，供航運參考。

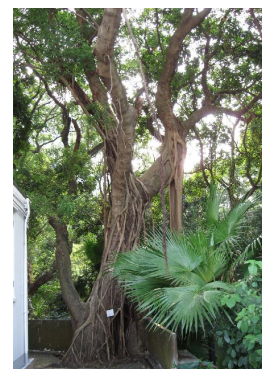
而這個「小亭」的位置，其實在以前是一個蒐集地磁數據的地方(magnetic hut)。

III. 天文台樹林中樹木之中英文名稱對譯 及 英文簡介

為方便向參觀天文台開放日之外籍人士介紹天文台之樹林特色，以下提供部份樹木之英文簡介資料供各導賞員參考：

1. 細葉榕 (Chinese banyan, Small-leaved banyan)

- One of the most popular native trees in Hong Kong, generally grow along roadsides or near villages for shade and windbreaks.
- Grow in almost any conditions and in any type of soils, sometimes even clings to rocks or retaining walls.
- Slow growing. It processes a wide spreading crown of dense foliage.
- Numerous slender aerial roots(纖細的氣根) hanging from the branches, which will form new supporting trunks when reaching the ground.



2. 絞殺現象 (Strangler)

- Noted that the *Cinnamon tree* (陰香) which grows next to the *Chinese Banyan* is being strangled by its aerial roots.



About Strangler (plant):

- The strangler fig tree (絞殺榕) has an *aggressive growth habit* that *insures* its *survival* in the rainforest.
- There is *little light* and *a lot of competition for water and nutrients* in the lower layer of rainforest.
- As the floor of a rainforest is a difficult place for seedlings to grow, Strangler fig trees have made an *adaptation* to avoid these difficulties.
- strangler fig tree start out their lives as epiphytes (附生植物) in the crook of a tree or on its branches. Tiny, sticky seeds are deposited high in a tree by animal droppings.
- The seedlings grows slowly at first, getting their nutrients from the sun, rain and leaf litter that has collected on the host.
- The stranglers *send out* many *thin roots* that *snake down the trunk of the host tree* or dangle as aerial roots from its branches.
- When the roots reach the ground they dig in and put on a growth spurt, *competing with the host tree for water and nutrients*.
- They also send out a network of roots that *encircle the host tree* and *fuse together*.
- The roots grow thicker they *squeeze the trunk of its host* and *cut off its flow of nutrients*, which might eventually dies.



3. 馬尾松 (Chinese red pine)

- The only native pine in Hong Kong.
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- Being drought and coldness resistant, Commonly used in *early afforestation*.
- However, as it cannot withstand hill fires, and with the attack of Nematoda (a kind of worm) in 1981 and 1982, the Government introduced, *Acacia confusa* (*Acacia 台灣相思*) and *Tristania conferta* (*Brisbane box 紅膠木*) to substitute it.



4. 羅漢松 (Buddhist pine)

- Small evergreen tree originated from China and Japan.
- often trimmed into conical, spherical and multi-layers for ornamental purposes.
- *Purplish oval shaped fruits, look like the Buddhist instruments* used in Buddhist Mass, thus of significance to Buddhists and is commonly planted in Buddhist temples.
- It also has long been admired in China. Its open leaves let sunlight through, scaring away shadows and giving it *valuable feng shui, or natural harmony*.



- Due to its high values, the buddhist pine growing in country parks was **commonly stolen by Chinese illegal immigrants** in Hong Kong.

5. 石栗 (Candle-nut tree)

- **Quick growing**, regular shaped and possess a dense crown.
- Commonly **planted as shade and roadside tree**.
- **Seeds** can be used to **extract oil**, to **make paints and soaps**.
- Toasted fruits taste like peanuts, have medicinal values in relieving diarrhoea.
- But excessive consumption may lead to vomit and diarrhoea.



6. 檸檬桉 (Lemon-scented gum)

- A tall and quick growing evergreen tree originating from Australia.
- In Hong Kong, it is commonly found in large parks, and along the Tai Po Road and Castle Peak Road.
- The bark is pale bluish grey in colour, smooth and deciduous.
- If we **crush its leaves**, a **strong lemon scent** will be **released**, which can **drive away mosquitoes and flies**.
- Its **leaves** have a strong lemon **scent**.
- The leaves can be used to **extract oil essence** to **make soaps**.



7. 蒲葵 (Chinese fan palm, Fountain palm)

- **Slow growing**, but **very hardy** and can stand up to strong wind.
- Commonly planted in gardens for its attractive outlook.
- It possesses a single **stout cylindrical trunk** (粗壯的圓筒形樹幹), showing the annual rings of leaf scars from fallen leaves.
- **Leaves** are **fan-shaped**, spirally arranged in a dense group at the tip of the trunk, forming a dense crown.
- Has a **wide range of uses**:
 - wood can be used to make umbrella handles or walking sticks.
 - **young leaves** can be used to make **fans**, **hats** and **brushes**.
 - the **bast** (韌皮纖維) can be used to make **ropes**.
 - The dried **fallen leaves** are also used to house the thermometers in Hong Kong observatory ("*thermometer shed*").

