

Comparison of Similar Looking Plants

Saraca declinata, *Saraca indica* and *Saraca thaipingensis*



Scientific name: *Saraca declinata*

Common Name: Red Saraca

Family name: Fabaceae

Origin: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Borneo



Scientific name: *Saraca indica*

Common Name: Asoka Tree

Family name: Fabaceae

Origin: Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia






Scientific name: *Saraca thaipingensis*

Common Name: Yellow Saraca




Family name: Fabaceae

Origin: Myanmar, Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Java

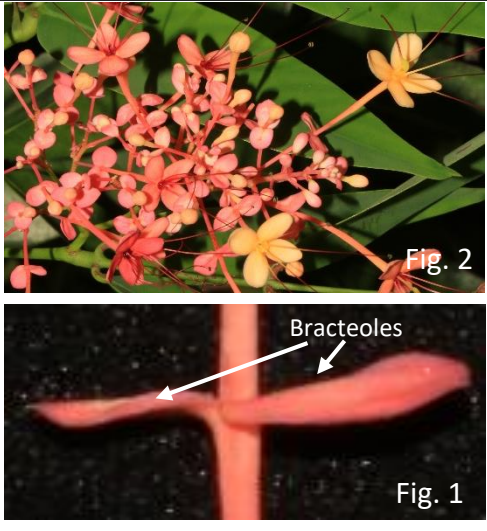
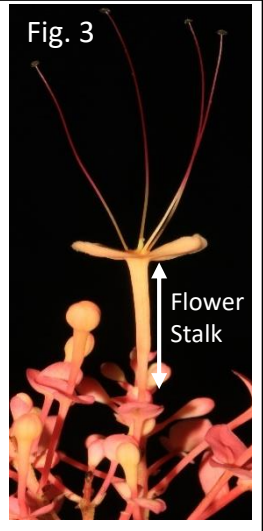

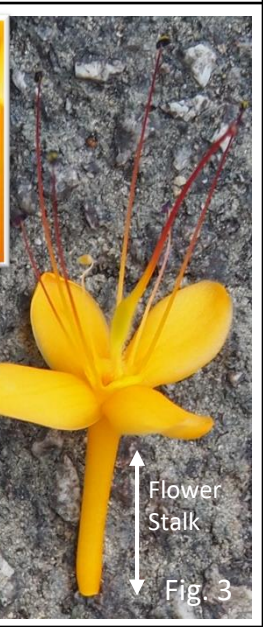
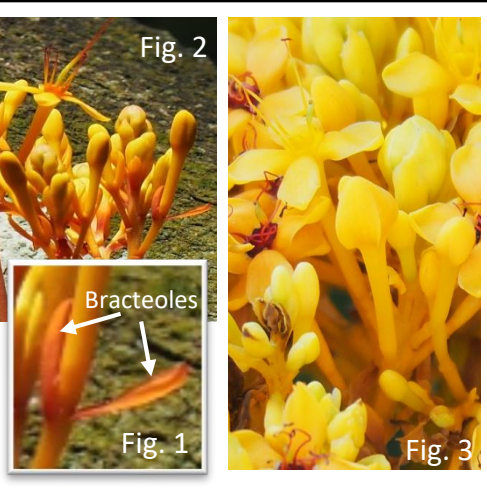
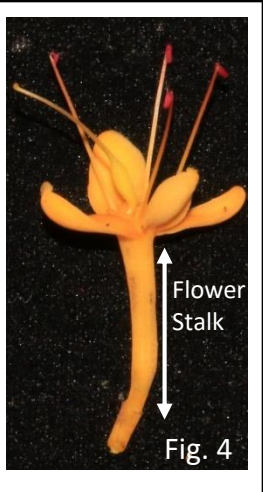
Character comparison

	Foliage	
<p><i>S. declinata</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaf is 10 – 75 cm long • Petiole is subsessile • Rachis is (4.5-) 8.5-56 cm long. • There are (1-) 3 - 5 (7) pairs of leaflets. • Each leaflet is 4 – 30 (-50) cm long and 1.5 – 11 (-20) cm wide. • The pair of uppermost leaflets are the largest. • The pair of leaflets closest to the base of leaf often clasp twig. • Leaflets turn pale brown or greenish, rarely blackish brown when dry. 	
<p><i>S. indica</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaf is 7 – 65 cm long • Petiole is subsessile to shortly petioled • Rachis is 7 – 25 (-35) cm long. • There are (1-) 2 - 4 (-7) pairs of leaflets. • Each leaflet is (5-) 15 – 20 (-30) long and (1.5-) 3.5 - 6 (-11) cm wide. • The pair of leaflets closest to the base of leaf often are smaller, and close to twig • Leaflets turn pale brown when dry. 	
<p><i>S. thaipingensis</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaf is 15 – 88 cm long, • Petiole is subsessile to petioled • Rachis is 15-56 cm long. • There are (4-) 7 (or - 8) pairs of leaflets. • Each leaflet is 7 – 32 cm long and 3 – 9.5 cm wide. • The pair of leaflets closest to the base of leaf does not clasp twig • Leaflets turn dark brown when dry. 	

Character comparison

	Inflorescence	
<p><i>S. declinata</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflorescence is up to 15(–30) cm wide. • Flowers turn yellow, orange-pink and then red with a darker eye in the center. • Flower cluster usually comprises of a mix of different colours at the same time. • Bracts usually smaller than the bracteoles. • Bract is 0.3-1.2cm long and 0.15-0.7 cm wide, and may persist or fall off early. 	
<p><i>S. indica</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflorescence is up to 10 (– 22) cm wide. • Flowers turn yellow, orange-pink and then red with a darker eye in the center. • Flower cluster may have a mix of different colours at the same time. • Bracts usually about the same size as bracteoles. • Bract is 0.3-0.8 cm long and 0.15-0.45 cm wide, and persistent or soon falling 	
<p><i>S. thaipingensis</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflorescence is (8-) 15 - 35(–40) cm wide. • Flower turn yellow, orange-pink and then red with a darker eye in the center. • Flower cluster may have a mix of different colours at the same time. • Bracts usually much larger than bracteoles. • Bract is 0.12-0.35 cm long and 0.7-0.22 cm and falls off early. Only found on young inflorescence. 	

Character comparison

	Flower		
<p><i>S. declinata</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bracteoles are showy, spreading (0.4 – 2 cm long) (Fig. 1). • Bracteoles are persistent, sometimes deciduous. • Flower stalk is 1 - 1.5 (-3.5) cm. (Fig. 2) • Distance between flower and bracteoles is 0.3 – 0.6cm. • Stamens (3 -) 4 (- 5) (Fig 3). • Filaments 1.6-3.8 cm and hairless. 		
<p><i>S. indica</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bracteoles are slightly upright to spreading , (0.3 – 0.8 cm long), and not clasping the flower stalk (Fig. 1). • Bracteoles are persistent or soon falling during flower maturity. • Flower stalk is (0.4-) 1.2 – 2 (- 3.5) cm. (Fig. 2). • Distance between flower and bracteoles is 0.7 – 1 (-1.4) cm • Stamens (5 -) 6—8(-10) (Fig. 3). • Filaments 1-3.5 cm and often finely hairy at the basal parts. 		
<p><i>S. thaipingensis</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bracteoles are not showy (0.6 – 1.7 cm long). (Fig. 1) • Bracteoles fall off early or during flower maturity. (Fig. 2) • Flower stalk is 0.7-1.5 cm. (Fig. 3) • Distance between flower and bracteoles is 0.2 – 0.5 (0.8) cm. • Stamens (3 -) 4 (- 6) (Fig. 4) • Filaments 0.85 - 1.7 cm and hairless. 		

Reference

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- Zuijderhoudt, G.F.P (1967). A revision of the genus *Saraca* L. (Leguminosae – Caesalpinaceae). Blumea 15 (2): 413-425.

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