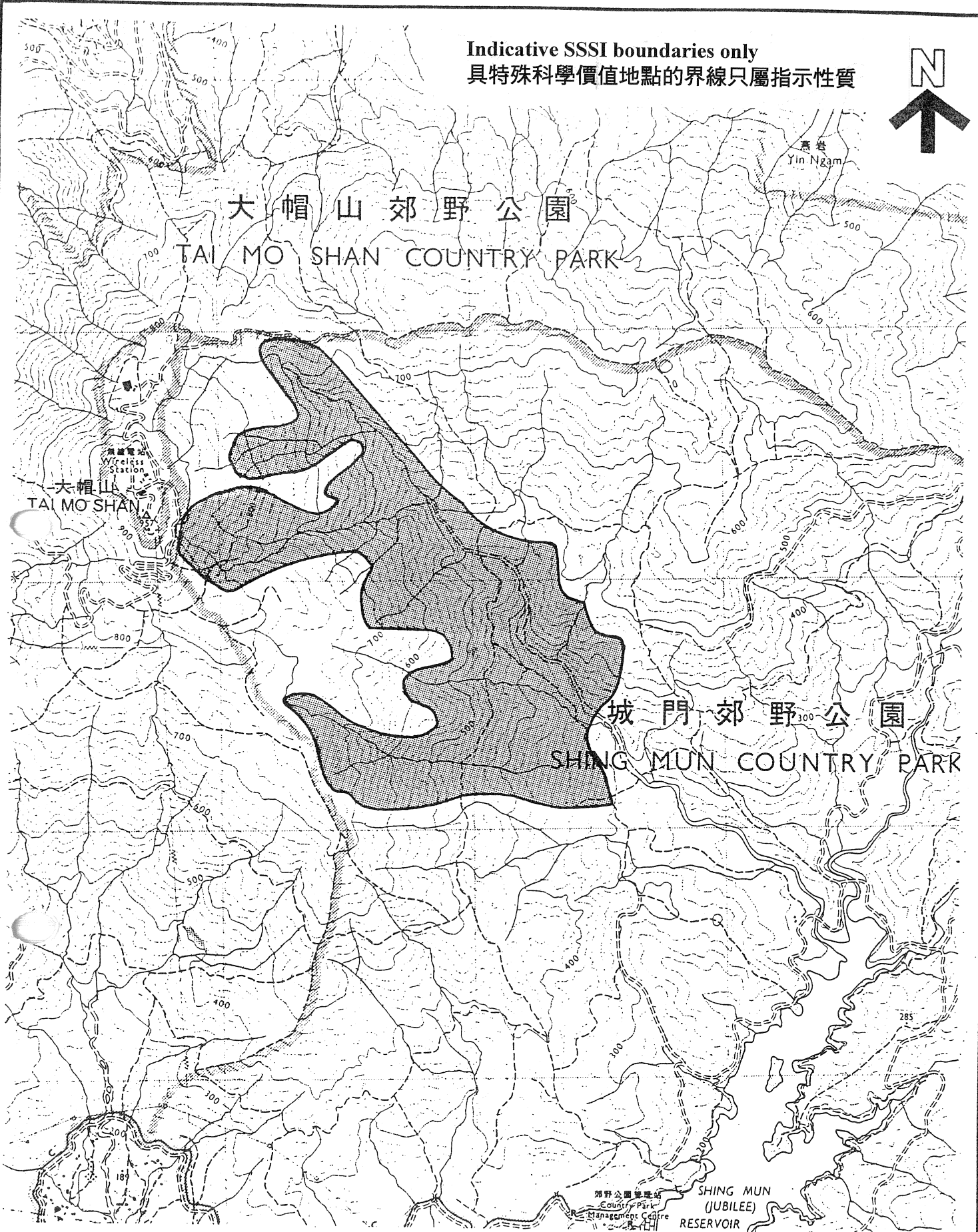


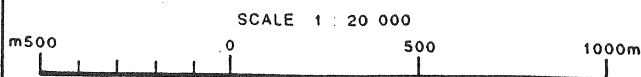
Indicative SSSI boundaries only
 具特殊科學價值地點的界線只屬指示性質



REFERENCE

DATE OF DESIGNATION: 15-9-75
 BASE PLAN EXTRACTED FROM:
 HM20C SHEET 7
 DATE: 30-9-92

SITE OF
 SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST—
 TAI MO SHAN MONTANE SCRUB FOREST



PLANNING
 DEPARTMENT



PLAN No.
 TPB/M/92/6

SITE No.
 3

No. 3 - Tai Mo Shan Montane Scrub Forest

Site

The south-east slopes of Tai Mo Shan are clothed with patches of well developed montane forest. The area is about 130 hectares.

Date of Designation

15 September 1975

Special Scientific Interest

The tree-flora is noteworthy and includes Camellia granthamiana and Amentotaxus argotaenia. The fern flora is rich with varieties such as Loxogramme lanceolata and Pteris insignis and an abundance of Hymenophyllum at high level. Over 30 species of orchids have been recorded from this site.

About a hundred local newts (Triturus sinensis) were released into a stream in this site in 1974 by Dr. Y.C. Kong of the Chinese University in the presence of the chairman and a member of the Nature Conservation sub-committee. This was a restocking exercise related to the conservation of the indigenous fauna of the area.

Camellia Granthamiana

This tree species was first made known to the scientific world in 1956 when Dr. Sealy (1956) described it and named it in honour of the then Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham.

Only one single tree was found at that time from which the definitive type specimen was collected. Diligent searching has now revealed an additional group of 18 trees growing in a valley within this site.

Amentotaxus Argotaenia

This species was first discovered in 1885 in Tai Mo Shan and it is distinctly possible that the single tree observed in this site might be the same one from which the first and definitive type specimen was collected. If this is so, then this is the only fertile specimen of this species so far recorded in Hong Kong.

Amentotaxus is a coniferous genus endemic to eastern Asia. The taxonomic position of Amentotaxus is interesting, complicated and still uncertain. Some authorities place it either in the Taxaceae, or Cephalotaxaceae whilst others suggest that it should form a separate family, the Amentotaxuceae. There is also dispute as to whether A. argotaenia should correctly be further subdivided into 3, or perhaps 4, separate species.

No. 3 - Tai Mo Shan Montane Scrub Forest (Cont'd)

Studies on its taxonomy are taking place in overseas research institutes and these studies often require fresh material. A research paper (Den Outer and Toes 1974) has recently been published based on twigs collected in Hong Kong, specially collected by the Herbarium staff for this study. More fresh materials have recently been sent, and field measurements of certain features of the leaf carried out by the Herbarium staff on behalf of an overseas researcher "have gone a long way towards clarifying the amount of variation to be met with per plant".

Amentotaxus is feared to be on the verge of becoming extinct (Li 1952).

Degree of Hazard

Being located within a water catchment area, the site is provided with management and protection services of the Agriculture & Fisheries Department.

Camellia is listed in the Legislation as a "protected plant".

Both *Camellia granthamiana* and *Amentotaxus argotaenia* are attractive plants and are likely to be attractive to plant "collectors" who may not be aware of their scientific importance.

Recommended Additional Protection Measures

Agriculture & Fisheries Department should continue to give priority to the protection of this site.

Amentotaxus argotaenia is recommended for inclusion in the list of "protected plants" in Section 2 of the Forestry Regulations made under Cap 96 Section 3.

References

Den Outer, R.W. & Toes (1974) "The Secondary Phloem *Amentotaxus*" Jour. Arnold Arb. 55(1) : 119-122

Li, H.L. (1952) : "The Genus *Amentotaxus*" Jour. Arnold Arb. 33 : 192-198

Sealy, J.R. (1956) "A New Species of *Camellia* from Hong Kong New Territory" Jour. R.H.S. LXXXI. 182.