

No. 57 - Pok To Yan and Por Kai shan

Site

The site covers two areas of montane shrub forests on the northern steep slopes of Pok To Yan and the eastern slopes of Por Kai Shan at the northern Lantau Island. The total area of the two forests is about 76.4 hectares.

Date of Designation

13 August 1994

Special Scientific Interest

These montane shrub forests are very similar to that at Ma On Shan SSSI. They are undisturbed for a long period of time. Over 200 species of native plants have been recorded and a number of rare and protected indigenous plants are found. Such diverse forests are now rare in Hong Kong and have great botanical importance.

Protected plants found include <u>Ailanthus fordii</u> (Ailanthus), <u>Enkianthus quinqueflorus</u> (Chinese New Year Flower), <u>Magnolia championi</u> (Hong Kong Magnolia), <u>M.fistulosa</u>, <u>Pavetta hongkongensis</u> (Pavetta), <u>Nepenthes mirabilis</u> (Pitcher Plant), <u>Rhododendron farrerae</u> (Farrer's Azalea), <u>R.hongkongensis</u> (Hong Kong Azalea) and <u>Schoepfia chinensis</u>. Other rare plants recorded include <u>Acer tutcheri</u> (Tutcher's Maple), <u>Eustigma oblongifolium</u> (Oblong-leaved Eustigma) and a newly recorded <u>Ilex</u> species. Apart from Ma On Shan SSSI, Po To Yan is the other site where substantial numbers of Hong Kong Azalea can be found.

There is also a collection of different orchids such as <u>Ania hongkongensis</u> (Purple Bulb Orchid), <u>Arundina chinensis</u> (Bamboo Orchid), <u>Paphiopedilum purpuratum</u> (Hong Kong Lady's Slipper Orchid) and <u>Pholidota chinensis</u> (Rattlesnake Orchid). The indigenous slipper orchid <u>P.Purpuratum</u> is now very rare due to illegal collections in the past.

<u>Asarum hongkongense</u>, a plant new to science discovered by a Chinese scientist at Sunset Peak in 1983 (Hwang & Wong 1990), is also found in Por Kai Shan. At present Lantau Island is the only place in the world that this plant has been recorded.

Degree of Hazard

In the past these shrub forests have been protected from human disturbance due to their remoteness and steep topography. They may be threatened by hill fire caused by the developments at North Lantau.

No. 57 - Pok To Yan and Por Kai Shan (Cont'd)

Recommended Protection Measures

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department should be consulted on development proposals which will affect the site. When opportunity arises, it should be designated as Country Park or Special Area under the Country Parks Ordinance Cap.208.

Reference

Hwang, S.M. and Wong, S.T.P. 1990. A new species of Asarum from Hong Kong. Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica 28(5): 406-408.