



# 戶外通識教室：幽香四溢白蘭花

## Nature's Classroom: Creamy White Champak



白蘭是木蘭科常綠喬木，原產爪哇。學名 *Michelia x alba* 中 x 代表它是雜交品種。花期 4-9 月，有 8-15 花瓣，螺旋型排列，腋生。呵氣如蘭常用來形容美少女，此句正是用來形容幽香四溢的白蘭花。白蘭樹葉是青鳳蝶幼蟲的食物，其花更可提煉成香油或配製香精、香水；早年的婦女更喜以白蘭花作頭飾或襟飾呢！其根皮入藥可治便秘，葉亮綠，葉底疏生微幼毛，由於葉脈網絡細密，除去葉肉後可作葉形書籤或別緻飾物。白蘭在香港甚少結果實，故多以人工繁殖。

### White Jade Orchid Tree/White Champak (*Michelia x alba*)

The scientific name “x” means this is a hybrid plant. It is an evergreen tree, native to Java, with thin bark that is grey & smooth; the elliptic leaves are glossy on the upperside & marked by conspicuous veins on the underside. When it flowers between Apr & Sep, it fills the air with a unique, sweet strong fragrance in the early morning & it can last all day long. Its creamy white blossom has 8-15 long petals arranged like a spiral. The flowers are highly prized by people & are often made into a bookmark or necklaces, or used to make perfume. One oriental custom is to use the white flowers as sweet scented decoration, such as hair-pin-flower for girls, & chest-pin-flower for ladies. Very few White Champak bear fruit in HK, so most specimens are cultivated for ornamental purposes here.

