



## 戶外通識教室：繁星點點的香港大沙葉

Nature's Classroom: Hong Kong Pavetta has starry leaf surface



香港大沙葉原產香港，在1934年為新品種發表，是其中一種以香港定名的植物，茜草科灌木或小喬木，別名滿天星、茜木。花白色，生枝頂，花冠筒細長，頂部4裂，片，花期3-8月。它特別之處是葉面上佈滿固氮菌瘤，彷彿繁星點點，摸之如沙般感覺。其果實圓形綠色，6-12月成熟。香港大沙葉具有藥用價值，包括可清熱解毒，活血祛瘀，治暑熱痧脹及跌打損傷。此植物品種受香港法例第96章林務規例保護，不可隨意採摘及擁有。

Hong Kong Pavetta (*Pavetta hongkongensis*) is a native of the territory. It was a new species in 1934, & therefore it is one of a plant name after HK. It's a shrub which grows to between 1 & 4 meters. The flowers are white, appearing between Mar & Aug. There are scattered nodules of bacterial colonies on the surface of the leaves which, are in fact formed by nitrogen fixation bacteria. When the sun shines through, they look like shining stars, so it is also known as "Starry Sky". The fruits are round & green, ripening between Jun & Dec. It has medicinal value; it can remove heat, detoxify, promote blood circulation, remove blood stasis, & help cure heat diseases, abdominal pain, injuries, fractures, bruises & strains. This is a protected species under Forestry Regulations Cap 96. So don't pick & keep it!