



# 戶外通識教室：鴨腳定鵝掌？

## Nature's Classroom: My Name Is Ivy Tree

鴨腳木為本地原生樹種，常綠喬木，喜半陰環境，常在樹幹上附有地衣。掌狀複葉，互生，一般有 7-8 枚小葉(所以其拉丁種加詞為 *heptaphylla* 具七葉/*Schefflera octophylla* 具八葉)，狀似鴨腳，故得名；唯內地及台灣人叫鵝掌柴。另灌木狀的鴨腳木一般只有 8 片小葉，故又稱八葉。於晚秋及冬天開花至翌年 1 月，花細小，白色，花序傘形，吸引蜜蜂及蝴蝶，是南方冬季重要的蜜源植物。其圓形黑色漿果亦為吃果實的林鳥所鍾愛。莖、根、皮入藥可作廿四味涼茶。其木材質軟，可作火柴及蒸籠原料。

註：廿四味的藥材大致上離不開桑葉、菊花、金銀花、竹葉、薄荷、茅根、羅漢果、藿香、紫蘇、香薷、淡豆豉、苦梅根、相思藤、水翁花、布渣葉、救必應、黃牛茶及鴨腳木等。

### Ivy Tree

(*Schefflera heptaphylla*, *Schefflera octophylla*)

Native evergreen shrub to tree with palmate compound leaves made up of 7-8 leaflets, look like duck feet(its Chinese name means Duck Feet Wood). It blossoms in late autumn till early January, attracts bees & butterflies. Its fruit is a black round berry, a diet of many birds. Its timber is widely used in the match industry while its stem, root & bark are one of the ingredients of the famous Cantonese 24-herbal tea.

