



戶外通識教室：白楸-樹林中的白浪

Nature's Classroom: This tree named "Turn-in-the-Wind"

白楸為大戟科本地原生常綠小喬木，不耐陰，可成長高達5米，但由於枝葉疏落，白楸並非理想的遮蔭樹種，唯其樹皮纖維可製麻繩和麻布袋，從果實提煉出來的油則可作工業用途。白楸的葉片互生，多為卵形，幼嫩部份披有鐵銹色的濃密短毛，基部兩個腺點分泌含糖的液體，吸引小昆蟲舔食。葉面深綠色，葉底則呈白色，故每逢山風吹拂，葉片翻動，林海彷彿掀起滾滾白浪，故英文名稱為 Turn in the Wind。在7至10月花期時開滿一串串白色花穗，通常雌雄異株，由於只有雄性花朵吸引昆蟲，故估計它們可能是靠風來傳粉。其果實褐色、披毛蒴果，外有無數柔軟的刺。每年12-1月果裂露出3粒圓形種子，為相思鳥所喜之食物。

(註：白楸之葉形甚似白反背葉，但花果形態則大有分別)

Turn-in-the-wind

(*Mallotus paniculatus*)

Endemic, fast-growing evergreen small tree with white underside of the mature leaves & rusty hairs on the young shoots. It cannot tolerate shade. Its flowers are produced from Jul-Oct on separate male & female trees, the yellow fragrant flowers grow in a long string; only the male flowers attract insects and it is probably that this species is pollinated by wind. Its fruits are the favourite food of the Japanese White-eye.

The white lower leaf will be turned up in the wind & looks like a white wave, this is why it is called "Turn-in-the-wind".

