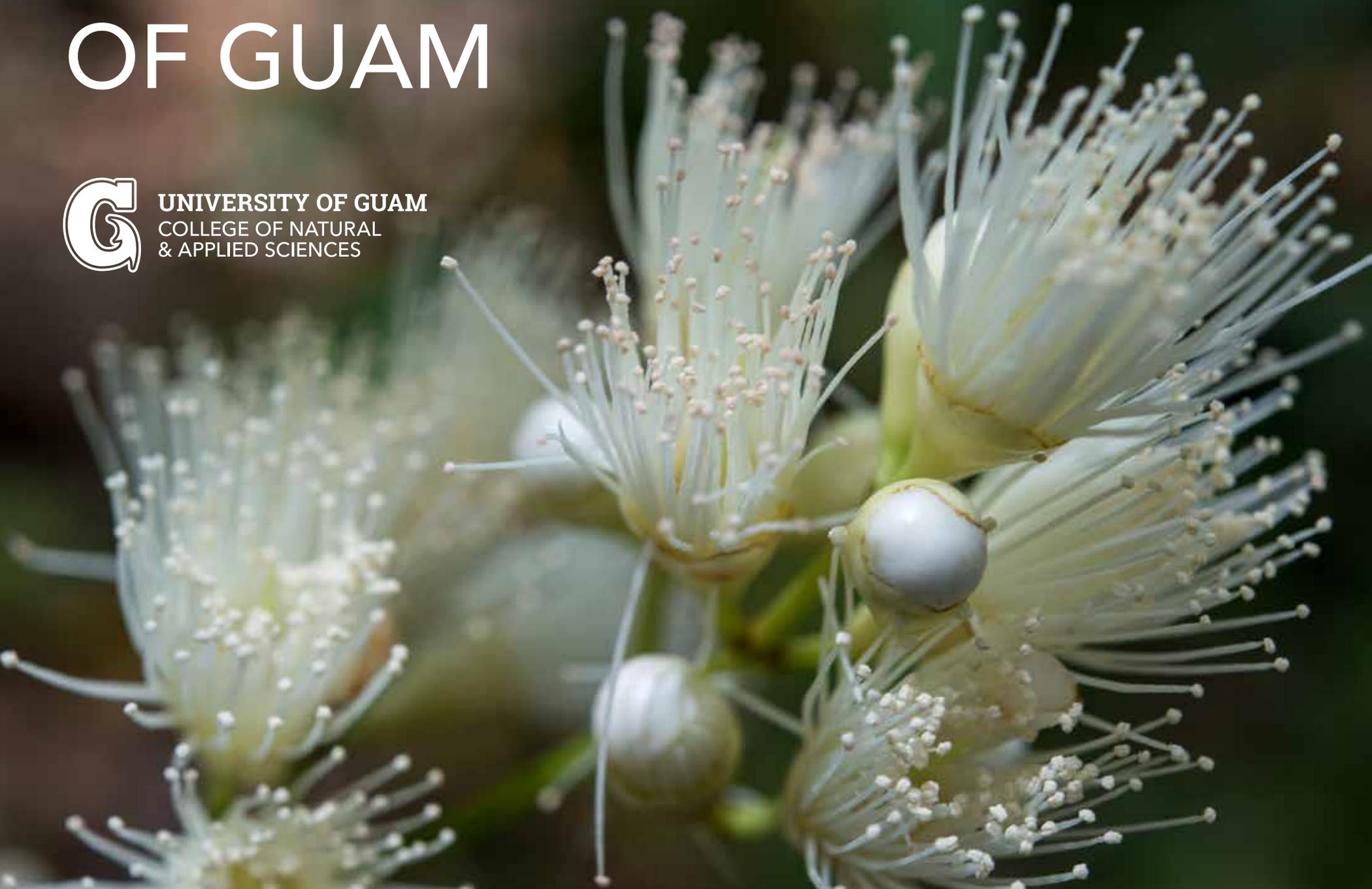


NATIVE FLOWERS OF GUAM



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
COLLEGE OF NATURAL
& APPLIED SCIENCES



Barringtonia asiatica
Puting

This large tree is often found growing with plant communities near sandy beaches. The large, fragrant flowers resemble fireworks with their long, colorful stamens. Four white petals enclose the stamens, which are connected at the base and change color from white to pink-purple.

Also known as fish-kill tree, the bark and fruit contain saponins, which were once used to kill fish on shallow reefs. This practice is now illegal.

Photos by G. Curt Fiedler



Freycinetia reineckei
Fianiti

This climbing, woody vine belongs to the Pandanus family (Pandanaaceae). It can be found climbing on trees in limestone forests, ravine forests and also as a thick, sprawling ground cover.

Showy leaf bracts surrounding the flowers range in color from yellow to pink. Fruits occur in oblong, red colored heads that resemble a small Pandanus fruit.

Photos by Lauren Gutierrez



Melastoma malabathricum
Gafao

This shrub grows in the clay soils on the savannas of southern Guam. It is endemic to Micronesia and ranges from Indo-Malaysia through the Pacific islands.

Gafao has been cultivated as an ornamental plant and can be easily propagated by seeds

Photos by Lauren Gutierrez



Bulbophyllum guamense
Siboyas Hålom Tåno

Bulbophyllum is the largest genus in the family Orchidaceae with approximately 2,000 species. Four species are found in the Mariana Islands. *Bulbos* means bulb and *phyllum* means leaf in Greek.

Bulbophyllum guamense is endemic to Guam and Rota. It occurs in the high branches of large trees where they grow in mat-like formations. They flower continuously with insects being attracted to their carrion-like scent.

Photos by Lauren Gutierrez

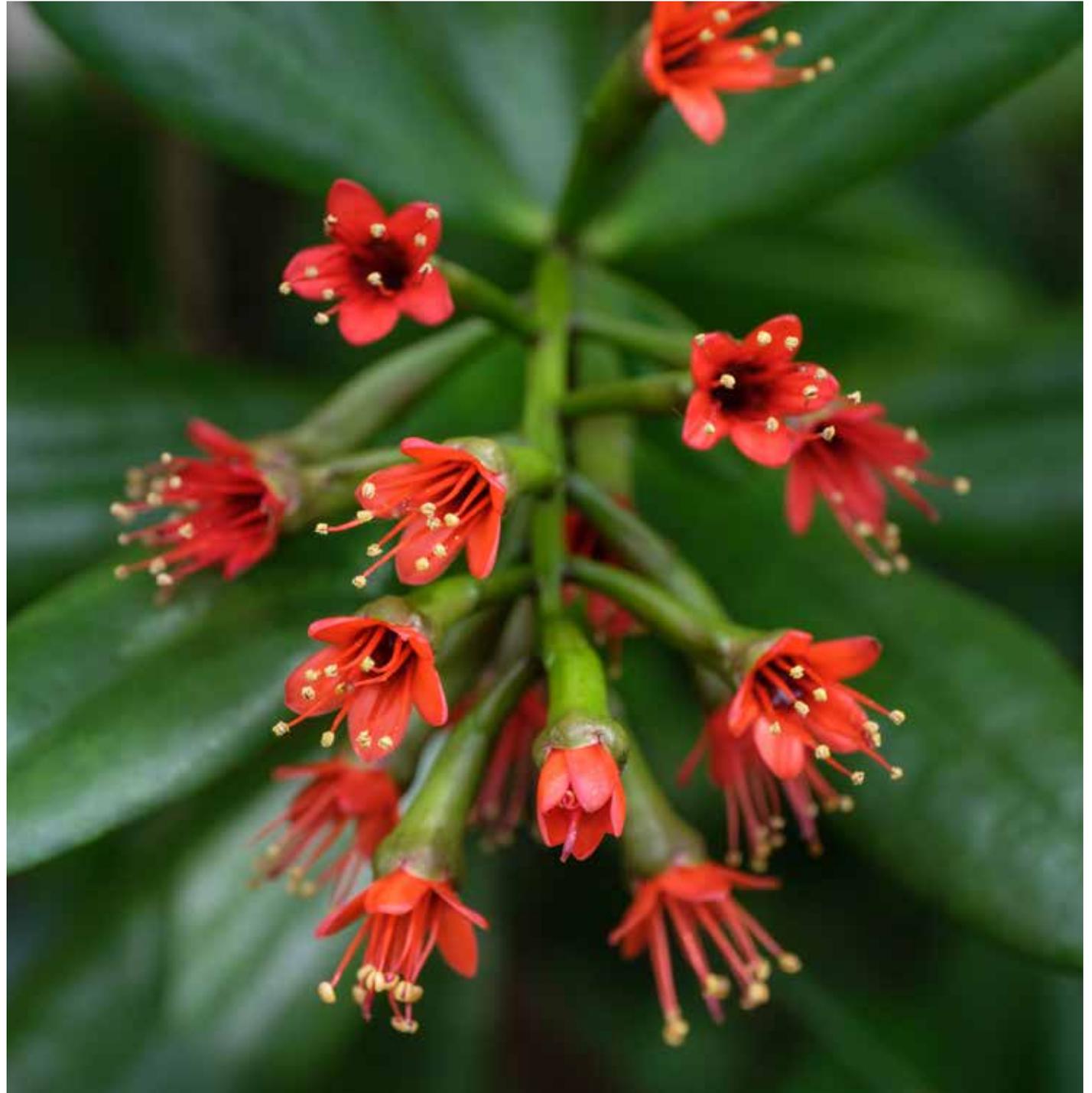


Lumnitzera littorea
Black mangrove

The bright red flowers of this evergreen mangrove species make this tree an attractive choice for an ornamental. This tree thrives in waterlogged places and in the brackish areas of coastal zones.

The native range is from the Pacific Islands through Southeast Asia to India. The bark, leaves and roots are used medicinally.

Photos by G. Curt Fiedler



Serianthes nelsonii
Håyun lâgu

This species is found only on the islands of Guam and Rota. There is currently only one mature *Serianthes nelsonii* living on Guam (photo below). Efforts are being made to propagate and outplant *Serianthes* seedlings in order to increase their numbers. The current population on Rota is estimated to be around 35 to 40 trees.

Håyun lâgu is a handsome forest and shade tree. When in bloom, it gives the forest canopy a beautiful, rosy countenance.

Photos by Matthew Putnam



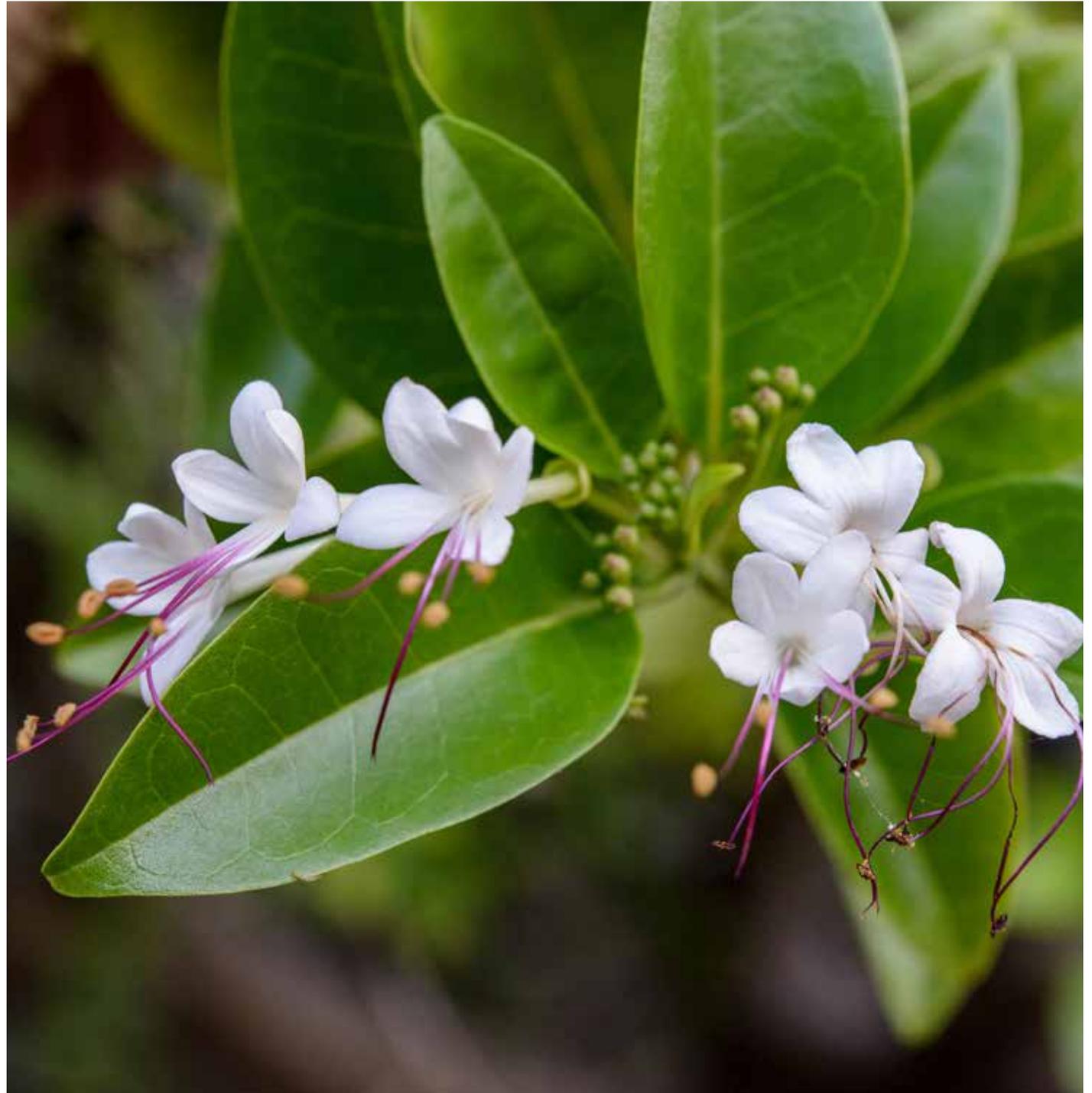
Volkameria inermis
Lodugan

This evergreen shrub is native to East Asia and the islands throughout the Pacific.

It prefers sunny locations and is salt tolerant, growing well in sandy soils. It is often planted on beaches to stop erosion.

The roots, leaves and seeds are bitter and used medicinally.

Photos by G. Curt Fiedler

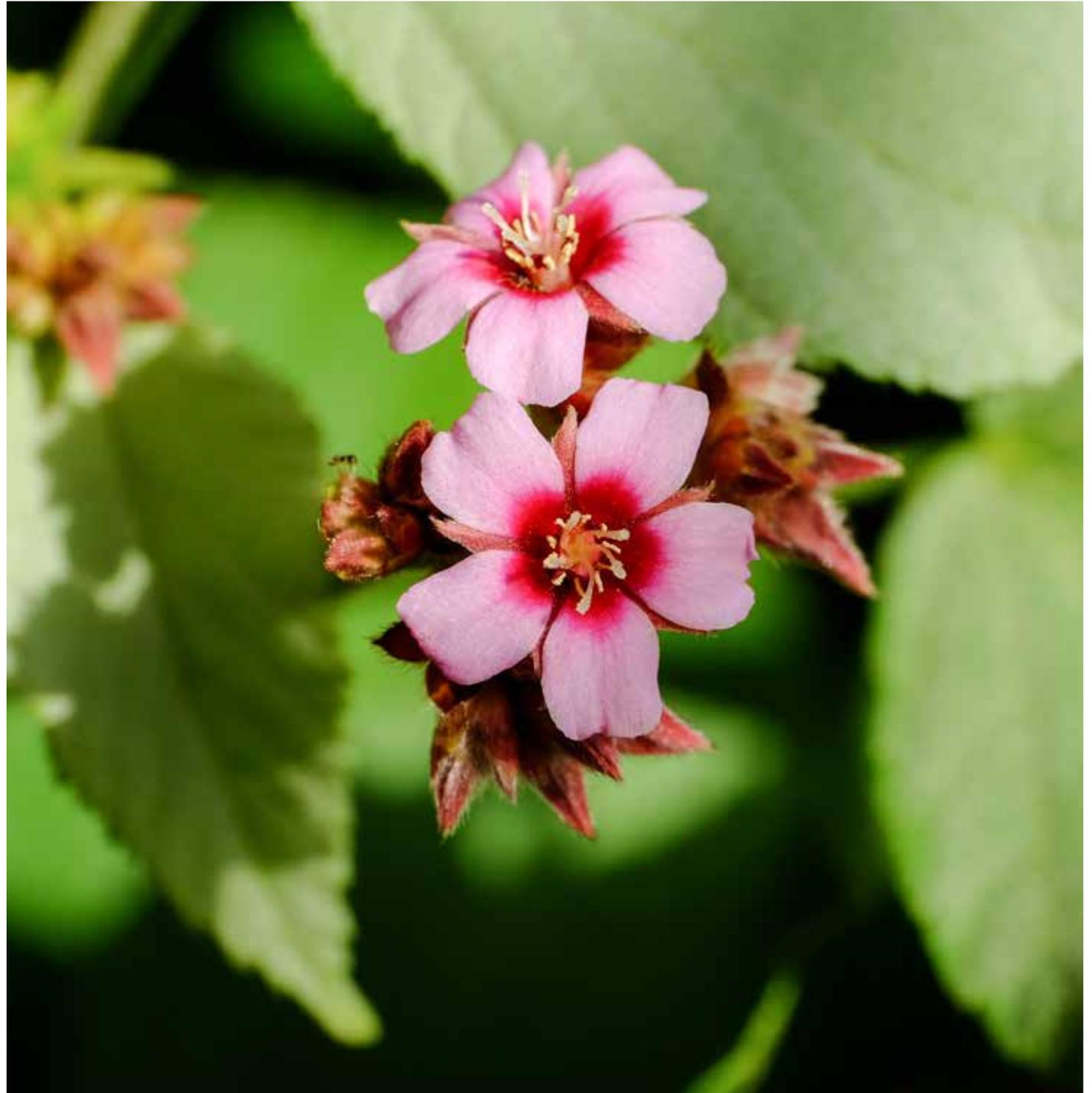


Melochia villosissima
Sayãfi

With its striking pink flowers, this large, tree-like shrub makes a beautiful ornamental when pruned. It prefers to grow on limestone in open areas or at forest edges.

Sayãfi can be propagated by seeds and cuttings. Butterflies are very attracted by this tree and like to visit the flowers.

Photos by G. Curt Fiedler



Talipariti tiliaceum
Pågo

Also known as Sea-Hibiscus, this tree can form thick impenetrable thickets when growing in wetland areas.

The flowers last only one day, changing color from yellow to reddish-purple.

Flowers can be used medicinally when applied topically to treat skin lesions.

Photos by G. Curt Fiedler



Dendrobium guamense

This orchid can be found in forests throughout the Marianas. Plants flower several times a year. The small, fragrant white flowers bloom all over the island simultaneously, lasting for only one day.

Many species of *Dendrobium* are happy in full sun and this Guam species can be found dressing up the branches of dead trees.

Photos by Lauren Gutierrez

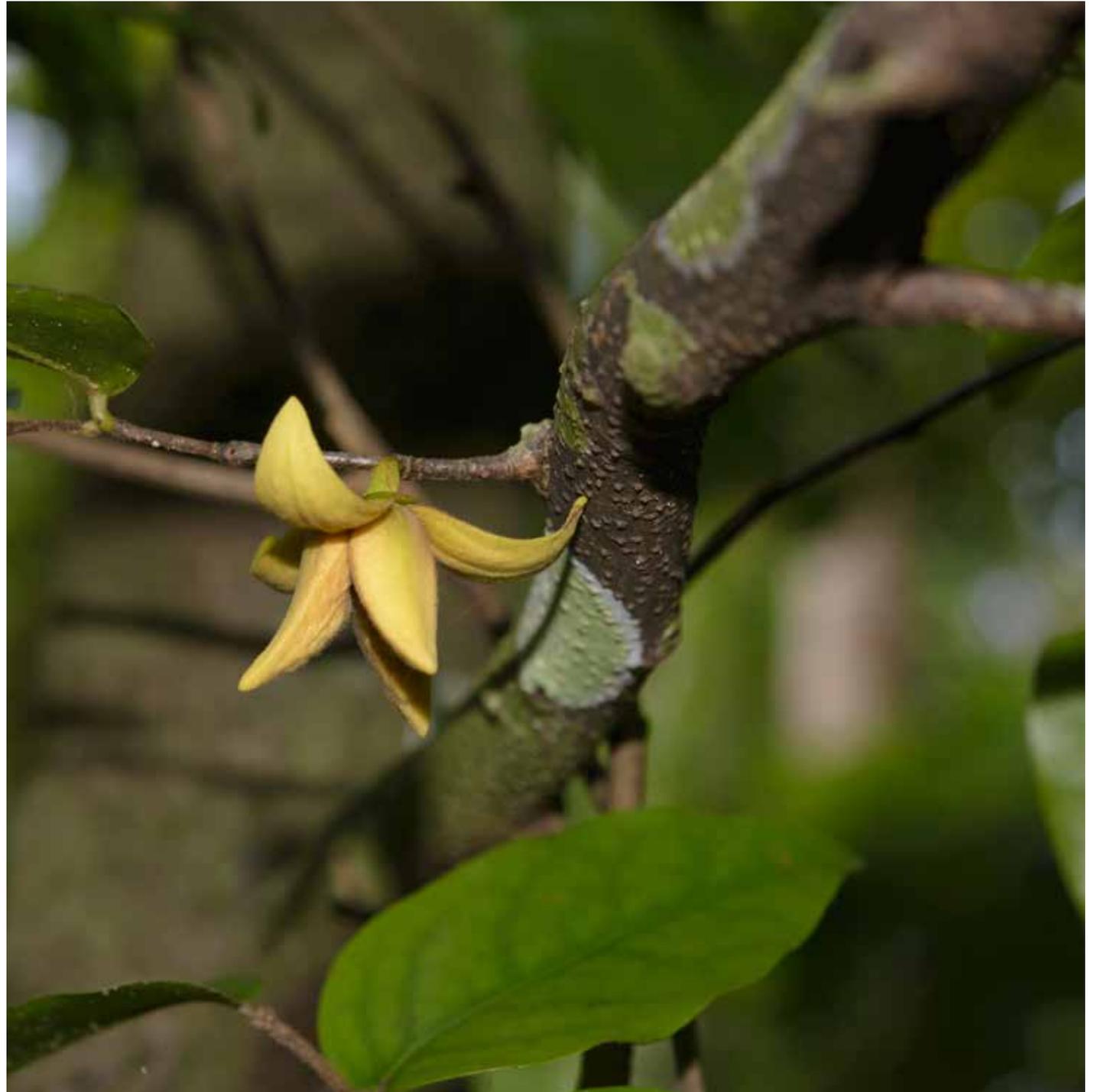


Meiogyne cylindrocarpa
Paipai

This limestone forest inhabitant was once thought to grow only in the only in the Mariana Islands. The former binomial name for papai was *Guamia mariannae*. Recent genetic work has included this tree in the genus *Meiogyne*, which is found throughout SE Asia and Australia.

The fruit of this shade-loving tree is eaten by birds and bats.

Photos by G. Curt Fiedler and Lauren Gutierrez



Erythrina variegata
Gaogao

Known in English as the India coral tree, this striking tree is often planted as an ornamental in tropical India. In the Pacific Islands, it is considered a valuable multipurpose tree used medicinally and as living fences.

Populations of gaogao in the Marianas have been plagued by the larva of the erythrina gall wasp. A biocontrol agent was introduced in the Northern Mariana Islands but not on Guam.

Photos by G. Curt Fiedler



Calanthe triplicata

In 1853, this species of orchid made history. It was used as the parent plant for the first orchid hybrid in England.

The native range for *Calanthe triplicata* is Indo-Malaysia and the Pacific from Australia to the Ryukyu Islands.

This indigenous orchid prefers shady, well-drained places for it to thrive.

Photos by Lauren Gutierrez





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