



The "parents" trees of the *Sindora x changiensis* that can be found at The New Course and Island Course

PROTECTING OUR BIODIVERSITY

Trees are essential for the conservation of biodiversity. They provide habitats for a wide variety of species, from birds and mammals to insects and fungi. They also play a vital role in the global carbon cycle, helping to regulate the climate and reduce the impacts of climate change.

In SICC, many of these gems are hidden within our golf courses. As featured recently in The Straits Times, February 2023, the *Sindora velutina* is a rare species native to Singapore and critically endangered. There are only 8 such trees in Singapore, and one of them resides in SICC.

When The New Course was undergoing redevelopment, one of the core scopes for the task force was to transplant all the trees that were affected. The Arborist found a tree that could not be named during the process. To an Arborist, a tree that could not be named is often a rare species and indeed it was the endangered *Sindora velutina* tree.



The Hairy leaves of the *Sindora velutina*



The young *Sindora velutina* at The New Course.

The Changi Tree

Did you know that there used to be a very tall iconic tree that stood at a height of 76 meters in Changi - The Changi Tree, also known as The Time Tree. The tree was felled in 1942 to prevent the Japanese artillery from using it as a ranging point during World War 2. In 2001, Singapore Tourist Board replanted the same species as the Changi Tree at the opening ceremony of the Changi Chapel and Museum to recreate the "Changi Tree".

The species of the "Changi Tree" is called *Sindora x changiensis*, it is the only specimen known to grow in the wild in Singapore. This tree is a natural hybrid endemic to Singapore and is the first record of natural hybridisation in the genus *Sindora*. This means that it is a natural crossbreed between two different species planted in the "wild". The "parents", *Sindora echinocalyx* and *Sindora coriacea*, can be found among the trees in The New Course and the Island Course.