

Hong Kong Natural History Society

Report on September 2010 Boat Outing to Tung Ping Chau

Members gathered at Ma Liu Shui Public Pier at 9:30 am and took Mr. Li's boat to Tung Ping Chau. We arrived at the pier near Tai Tong Wan at about 11:30. All the 13 members decided to take the 6 Km trail in a loop which takes us back to the pier in about 2 hours. We also arranged the boat to come back to the pier at 2 o'clock to take us to Cheung Sha Wan, which is the best beach for swimming. So, members could just leave their bags and swimming gear for later in the day.



We hiked along the seashore and soon came to a small well-kept Tin Hau temple for the Goddess of the Sea. All along we saw a lot of the dried-up corals washed ashore. We then moved on and came to the campsite area near the first major attraction – Kang Lau Shek. After a short break, we had to move on to run away from the attacks of the big black ants (thank goodness they were not Red Fire Ants)! At this point, a few members decided to turn back to find a cool shady place at the pier as it was too hot and humid for them to walk on. A few members decided to stay away from the bites of the black ants. They took their snacks on a big flat boulder near the sea. After the break, we moved on, going a little further inland which was cooler and shady. On the way, we saw the hillside full of Wild Coxcomb (*Celosia Argentea*), a spike inflorescence type of wild flower in Hong Kong. The faster half of the group got back to Tai Tong Wan and took their lunch at the restaurant there. At 2 o'clock, we got on board the boat again and were taken to the beach for swimming. A few non-swimmers decided to stay at the restaurant to carry on with their beer and noodles.

Most members enjoyed their swim to-and-fro the beach from the boat and Mr. Li did anchor at a wonderful spot not too far from the shore. The re-grouping was at the main pier where we started our return journey at 4:00 pm. We arrived at Ma Liu Shui at about 5:30 pm. Although still a bit too hot for hiking and the air was still and stuffy due to the approach of a typhoon, we enjoyed ourselves, especially catching the mild breeze and warm sunset of the day.

Reported by Mak Wei Ming