

Hong Kong Natural History Society
Report on May 2011 Boat Trip to Po Toi Island

25 members not worried about the unstable weather on the day set off on time on their journey to Po Toi. We were informed by Vikings Boat Company the day before that it was not possible for us to visit Waglan on the way because of the strong easterly wind that was forecast. The journey to Po Toi took us 2 hours on a fairly rough sea. The coxswain was very good in steering the boat at such an angle that we did not feel too bad on these big waves.

We arrived at Po Toi at about 11:30. The main group went along the path leading to the lighthouse where there are geological features like the Monk Rock and Buddhist's Palm to observe. They also made their way around over to the top of the hill to the Sunset Pavilion. On the slope of the hill, the group could explore flora and fauna before making their way on the descent to visit Mo's Old House – the legendary haunted ruin. On the way, members discovered the Buddha's Lamp (*mussaende pubescens*), Hong Kong Iris (*iris speculatrix*), flowering Cactus / Prickly-pear (*opuntia stricta* var. *Dillenii*) and even a very tame Cattle Egret.



The other very beautiful flowers we could find here in May are Rose Myrtle (*rhodomytus tomentosa*) and Shell Ginger (*alpinia zerumbet*). (Pictures in order of description, left to right)



A small group decided to sit around and took a swim at the stony beach although, with the occasional drizzles, the water was a bit chilly. A few members chose to explore the other side of the island where there is the Snail Rock and enjoyed a spectacular view from in front of the Tin Hau Temple. This side is more inhabited and cheerfully marked by the locals' colourful houses.

Our seafood lunch was scheduled for 2:30. We reserved 3 tables by the seaside and the fried squid served on this day was particularly yummy! Everyone enjoyed this "light" meal with beer or rose'. After the meal, we had to be back at the pier by 3:30 for our return journey. With the wind direction and big waves, we had to go back to Central the same way we came instead of travelling east and circumnavigating Hong Kong Island. More like riding in a cradle, with only a few of us feeling woozie, most arrived in Central without feeling sick. All well and alive, this marked the start of our boating trips this season.

Written by Mak Wei Ming
Photos taken by Dave England