

## Hong Kong Natural History Society

### Report on Boat Outing in October 2011 to Soko Islands

21 members set off to the Sokos in the furthest south-western waters on this sunny day. After a two-hour boat journey, we first landed on Tai A Chau, the biggest island amongst a group of seven.



We first caught glimpse of some ruins of the construction left from the times when there was a detention camp here for the boat people. We followed the major path to get to a pond which we believed served as a reservoir. The hillside here was covered with blossoms of Montane Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata* var. *montana*), scandent Fabaceae species with alternate leaves. The individual blossoms are not big but when clustered, these purplish petals with tinted yellow stamens made a stunning display (spotting the spider?). By the side of the pond, some members spotted a beautiful kingfisher perching on a branch nearby. It had an incredible long beak and a shocking turquoise blue stripe at the back. After observing its movements with our binnys for a while, we then made our way to look at the base of the camp ground which led out to a grand ocean view on the other side of the island.



At about one o'clock, we all went back to the junk and carried on our journey to Siu A Chau, the smaller island. The boat anchored near the beach and most members decided to take their lunch on board. After lunch break, a few members took the motor boat to explore on shore. Some members swam to the beach. We felt thankful that the water brought down by the Pearl River here was not too polluted this day. A few members decided to stay and relax on the boat. We set off for the return journey at 3:30pm, and dismissed in Central after riding through the waves at 5:30pm.

The White Dolphins seem to have changed their route!! Everyone had a good day although not getting the chance to spot any of them this time.



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