

Hong Kong Natural History Society

15 April 2018 Bus Ride to Sai Kung Country Park

Fifteen members and one guest all turned up dutifully at the bus stops on the morning of the planned hike in Sai Kung West CP, despite very grey skies and a threatening weather forecast, and no-one was heard to even mutter a four-letter word beginning with R. But shortly after the Kowloon Tong pickup it began to rain gently, then steadily, and as we continued our hour-long journey to the east, really quite heavily. By the time we arrived at Pak Tam Chung it can only be said that it was persisting down! Conversation on the bus had become really rather muted, other than references to various radars all showing four more hours of the same wet stuff, with possible thunderstorms to boot. Regardless, Maureen and Ken went off to collect our permit, but after a hurriedly convened mini-committee meeting with yours truly, I asked if anyone actually *wanted* to go walking in this, and was met by the deadliest of hushes! And after agreeing to call it off as a bad job, the biggest of smiles and sighs of relief all round! Please see the pictorial evidence below which proves we weren't just shower wimps.



So in best British fashion, we ate our lunch sandwiches at 11am on the bus on the return journey, during which conversation was much more animated and jolly. Thankfully, the rain continued all the way back, so we were able to feel we'd made the right decision. More pictorial proof from the bus.



Back in Central, the group had a social coffee and cake together at Café 8 – it was still raining.

So just to brighten the page, here is a row of Spider trees (*Crateva unilocularis*) in beautiful blossom in Discovery Bay just days before.



Look closely at the close-up to see where they get their common name from.

