







沙田官立中學
校園植物知多少

細葉榕

Ficus microcarpa

Chinese Name :	細葉榕	
English name:	Chinese Banyan	
Family:	Moraceae	
Scientific name:	<i>Ficus microcarpa</i>	
Morphology / Features:	<p>One of the most popular native trees in Hong Kong, growing generally along roadsides or near village for shade and wind-breaks. Grown in almost any site and type of soil and can be found Clinging round rocks, retaining walls and other unlikely positions. Sends out lengthy roots to reach soil and moisture.</p> <p>Indifferent to salt, it will also grow at the edge of the sea, although probably not in sand which would not anchor the trunk sufficiently.</p>	
Trunk and aerial roots:	<p>Large, wide-spreading, evergreen tree with numerous tassels of slender aerial roots hanging from the branches, which on reaching the soil from new supporting trunks. Slow-growing, with a wide dense foliage crown, reaching to 15 metres in height.</p>	
Leaves:	<p>Leaves alternate, simple, elliptical, to 7 x 3.5 cm. Leaf apex suddenly narrowing to a short point, base tapering, margin entire. Texture smooth, firm, veins inconspicuous, leaf stalk to 1 cm long.</p>	
Flowers and Figs:	<p>Flowers produced more or less continuously; flowers minute, on the inner surface of the hollow fig. Ripe figs round, about 1 cm across, at first pale green with white spots finally passing through pink, red and purple to black, in ones or twos in the leaf axils, stalkless.</p> <p>Flowers very simple, unisexual, of three or more narrow purplish perianth segments enclosing either one stamen or a single-celled ovary. Pollinated entirely by the fig wasp. The female wasp lays her eggs in short-styled female flowers and the insect develops in the ovary of the flower (the "gall flower"). Male wasps</p>	

emerge first and, having located galls with females within, bite a hole in the ovary wall and through it fertilise the female wasp. When the female wasps emerge they become dusted with pollen from male flowers as they make their way out of the fig. They then find young figs which they enter to deposit eggs, in doing so they carry the pollen which will fertilise the long-styled female fig flowers. In Chinese banyan figs contain male flowers, female flowers and gall flowers.

Reference:

Hong Kong Trees Omnibus Volume, Dr. S.L. Throrer, An Urban Council Publication. 1990.

