

Biodiversity Record: New locality record for the palm, *Pinanga simplicifrons*, in Singapore

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Recommended citation. Lim J, Chong R, Chia Z, Teo J & Ang WF (2022) Biodiversity Record: New locality record for the palm, *Pinanga simplicifrons*, in Singapore. Nature in Singapore, 15: e2022043. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2022-0043

Subject: *Pinanga simplicifrons* (Tracheophyta: Angiospermae: Arecaceae).

Subject identified by: Ang Wee Foong and Jolene Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Bukit Kallang between Petaling Hut and Terentang Hut; 22 February 2022; 1240 hrs.

Habitat: Primary rainforest, at understory layer.

Observers: Rie Chong, Zoe Chia, Teo Jinying, Ang Wee Foong and Jolene Lim.

Observation: An individual clump of *Pinanga simplicifrons* was found in an open area caused by a recent tree fall (Figs. 1 & 2). It was about 100 cm tall, and growing alongside *Madhuca kingiana*, *Actinodaphne malaccensis* and *Rhopaloblaste singaporensis*. No other individuals were found in the vicinity. Accessibility to the area was obstructed by the tree fall.



Fig. 1. The clump of *Pinanga simplicifrons* (centre) was found growing in an open area partially obstructed by climbers and branches from a tree fall. (Photograph by: Jolene Lim)

Remarks: The featured find represents a new locality for *Pinanga simplicifrons* (Miq.) Becc. in Singapore. This diminutive palm was thought to be extinct in Singapore until it was rediscovered in 2010 from a single population in the Nee Soon Swamp Forest (Ang et al., 2010). Another population was subsequently found in the vicinity of Lornie Trail at the edge of Macritchie Reservoir, growing under dense forest canopy (Loo et al., 2014). In Singapore, *Pinanga simplicifrons* has been regarded as ‘critically endangered’ (see The Biodiversity of Singapore, 2022).

Literature cited:

Ang WF, Lok AFSL & Tan HTW (2010) Rediscovery in Singapore of *Pinanga simplicifrons* (Miq.) Becc. (Arecaceae). *Nature in Singapore*, 3: 83–86.

The Biodiversity of Singapore (2022) *Pinanga simplicifrons* (Miq.) Becc. <https://singapore.biodiversityonline/species/P-Angi-000285> (Accessed on 21 April 2022)

Loo AHB, Ang WF, Baker WJ & Tan HTW (2014) A Guide to the Native Palms of Singapore. Singapore Science Centre, 176 pp.



Fig. 2. Habitus of the clump of *Pinanga simplicifrons* at Bukit Kallang. (Photograph by: Jolene Lim)