



COMMONWEALTH of the  
NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

- Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas)
- Maug
- Asuncion

● Agrihan

● Pagan

● Alamagan

● Guguan

● Sarigan

● Anatahan

● Farallon de Medinilla

● Saipan

● Tinian  
● Aguihan

● Rota

PHOTOS BY DEW  
Left and  
below  
*Serianthes  
nelsonii*



ENDANGERED • THREATENED

## FLORA OF THE CNMI

### *Serianthes nelsonii*

*Serianthes nelsonii* (Fire tree, Trongkon guafi) is a native tree that is endemic to the Mariana Islands. The flower is a deep pink pompom, similar to the Monkeypod. This large tree can grow to about 2m in diameter and over 30m in height. On Rota, there are approximately one hundred and twenty-one trees in upper elevation native forests.

Wasps and mealy bug parasites; seedling predation by mammals such as deer, pigs and cattle; habitat loss; and interbreeding are all factors that may have contributed to the decline of this species.

*S. nelsonii* is listed as a federally endangered species. It is protected by federal and local laws.

### *Nesogenes rotensis*

*Nesogenes rotensis* is a very small herbaceous, creeping plant with pointed toothed leaves. It has small white flowers with five petals that develop anywhere along the branch. It grows in small clumps with many branches growing in different directions. The leaves are greenish-yellow, and it often grows under other low lying



*Nesogenes rotensis*

shrubs, making it very difficult to see.

The only known population of *N. rotensis* is found along the rocky coast of Poña Point on Rota.

Threats to this plant are recreational activities that take place in and around its habitat.

*N. rotensis* is a candidate-for-listing as a federally endangered species.

### *Osmoxylon mariannense*

*Osmoxylon mariannense* is a soft-wooded tree that is endemic to Rota. These trees are only found in the Sabana area of Rota at high elevations. They grow to about 10m in height. The fruit of the *O. mariannense* is a cluster of large dark blue berries at the end of branches.

Threats to *O. mariannense* are forest loss coupled with invasive vines, particularly *Mikania scandens* (mile-a-minute vine).

*O. mariannense* is a candidate-for-listing as a federally endangered species and is protected by local law.

### *Tabernaemontana rotensis*

*Tabernaemontana rotensis* is a small tree with light green, oblong leaves and milky sap. It has small flowers, each with five petals. It grows to about 8m in height. It is found in native forests of both Rota and Guam.

Threats to *T. rotensis* are predation by insects and rodents, a lack of suitable pollinators and competition with non-native species.

*T. rotensis* is a candidate-for-listing as a federally endangered species and is protected by local law.

### \* Flora distribution in the CNMI



*Osmoxylon mariannense*



*Tabernaemontana rotensis*

**BUG OFF!**

Wasps lay their eggs inside of the seed pods of the Fire tree. When they hatch, larvae feed on the seeds.

**FACTOID!**



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