戶外通識教室：七姑婆(毛果算盤子)幫你止痕

Nature's Classroom: Hairy-fruited Abacus Plant relieves itching

郊野行山抄小路時，常會不小心觸摸到野漆樹(木蠟樹)有毒的汁液，便會引起皮膚過敏、紅腫及痕癢難搔。武俠小說有云：「毒蛇出沒之處附近必有解藥」！要大自然真奇妙，只枝便用毛果算盤子的葉可起盤子的子，俗稱漆大姑或七姑婆，大戟科灌木或小喬木，葉卵形，邊全緣，葉片厚革質，常有紅色斑塊，兩面披短毛。朔果肩球狀，狀似算盤子。花淡綠色，2-4 朵簇生於葉腋內，花期差不全年，小枝有柔毛。全株供藥用，有解漆毒、收斂止渴、祛濕止癢的功效。

Hairy-fruited Abacus Plant (*Glochidion eriocarpum*)

Shrub or small tree up to 5m tall. Its villose fruit looks like a pink abacus bead. All parts of the plant can be used as medicine.

The Wax tree is notorious for making our skin red & itchy. There is a common saying that you can find an antidote nearby the habitats of venomous snakes. It is so interesting that we can always find an antidote plant near a Wax tree in the countryside, which is the Hairy-fruited Abacus Plant. Simply clean the affected area with a wash made with the leaves of the plant stilled in boiled water, it can relieve the allergic reactions due to the juice of the Wax tree.