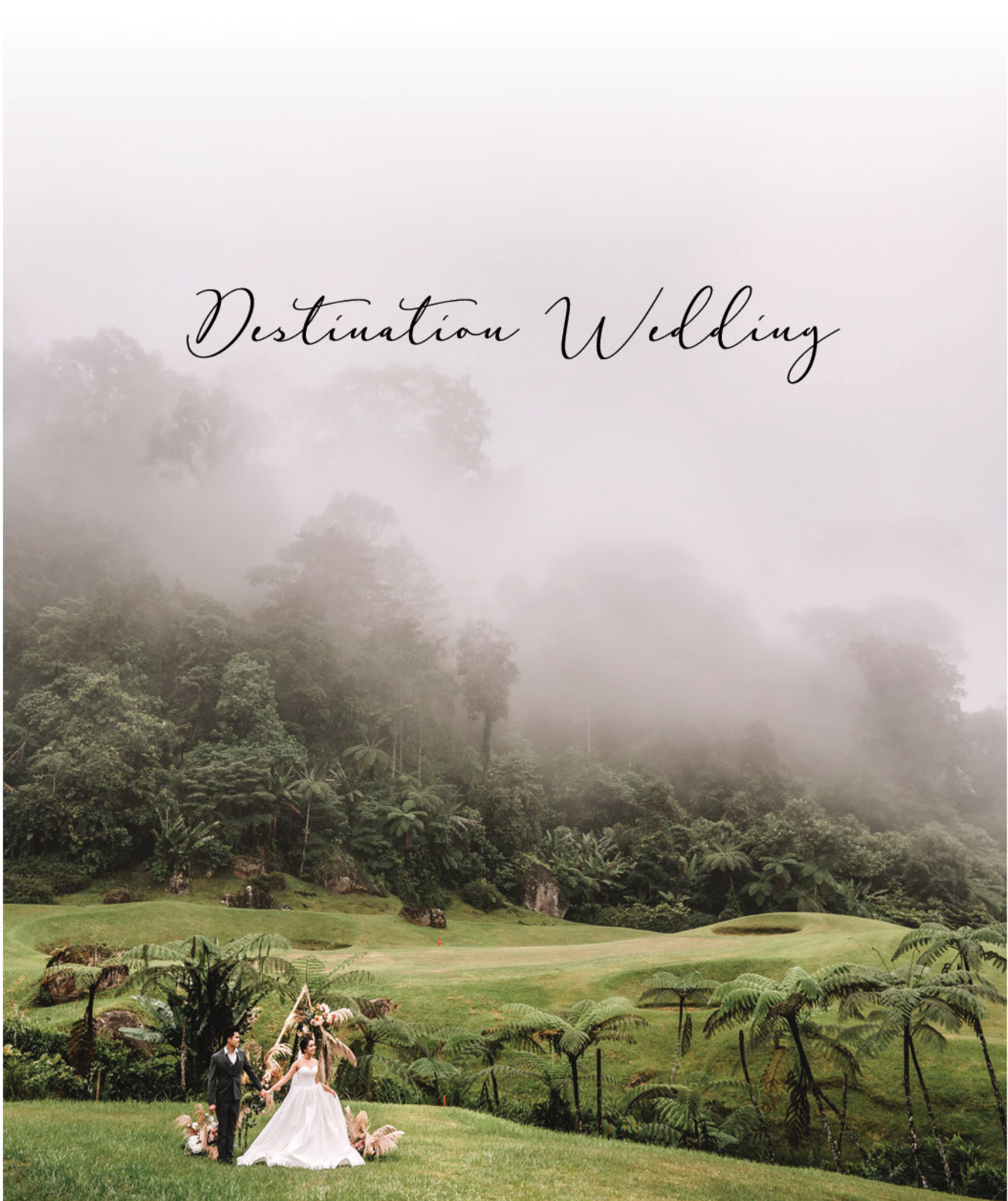


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Destination Wedding





A Wild Herb On The Rise: *Adenosma nelsonioides*

Hailing from the south western region of Sarawak, this multi-talented green beauty from Borneo was introduced in 2007 to the traditional knowledge team from Sarawak Biodiversity Centre by the late William Sauu of the Bidayuh community of Kampung Semadang in Padawan. Fondly, called 'Bunga Ta'ang' by the local natives, *Adenosma nelsonioides* has shown, beyond reasonable doubt that she is multi-gifted.

To catch a glimpse of her, you need to take a walk into the paddy fields after harvest. She would lavishly flourish at her favourite spots, where the land is damp and clayey. Alternatively, you could find her happily sun-bathing in disturbed soils and open areas, as long as it is damp. *A. nelsonioides* is tenacious and a rebel species. While some will try to get rid of her nuisance, she always makes a comeback after every harvest.

The old adage "first impressions are important" does not hold water with *A. nelsonioides*. The first time you see her, she may seem insignificant and a 'pest' - a wild weed on the loose. But, when you get up close and personal, you will realise the capabilities and potential of this wild beauty. She comes from the *Scrophulariaceae* family and for generations, her lineage has been used by the Bidayuh community.

Some of her physical attributes are unique: *Height: 60 cm; Colour and tone:* when young, she takes on a light green tone and turns purple with age, becoming semi-woody.

So, what does *A. nelsonioides* have that has the potential to turn heads commercially?

- *The fragrance she exudes appeals for perfumery and aromatherapy:* the strong aromatic oil derived from *A. nelsonioides* presents a unique scent. Its long-lasting, somewhat spicy aroma even after drying, makes her perfect as potpourri option.
- *She is animal-friendly:* when placed at four corners of a chicken coop, the sun-dried 'Bunga Ta'ang' wards off fleas and ticks. Its repellency characteristics promises natural pet care product range and poultry care.
- *Perfect for healthcare and food preservation:* Her anti-microbial, anti-yeast and anti-fungal attributes holds strong potential for healthcare products and as natural food additives in food preservation.

By now, you would have just realised that *A. nelsonioides* is, in fact, a wild herb found in Sarawak, Borneo. To the eye of a common man, a shrub or weed is just another plant that we step on and has no significance. But, to the Natives of Borneo, the tropical rainforest is a green pharmacy with a treasure of healing potential.

The next time you step on a wild weed in Borneo, don't underestimate it!

Article Contributor: Sarawak Biodiversity Centre (SBC). One of Sarawak Biodiversity Centre's key programmes is its traditional knowledge documentation programme, which aims to give recognition to generational old traditional wisdom of the native communities and conservation of Borneo Rainforest. To date, SBC has achieved a historical milestone when it made Sarawak to become the first state in Malaysia to sign the Access and Benefit Sharing with indigenous communities in line with the international Nagoya Protocol. SBC is continuously seeking industry partners for commercialisation collaborations.

For further information, visit SBC's website: www.sbc.org.my