

Malaysia



Singapore
The Ginger Garden, Singapore Botanic Gardens
In 1990, J.N. Kelsey, the director of the gardens, researched the Gingers of the region and published his findings. In the 1990s this work was continued by R.R. Hillman showing the long association the Gardens have had with the Zingiberaceae family. In 2005, a specialist Ginger garden was opened, bringing together plants of the Ginger order from all over Malasia. The collection in South East Asia are known collectively as Malasia.



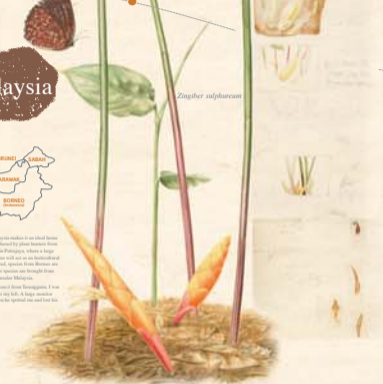
*Costus erythrophyllus*³

*Costus stenophyllus*⁴



Malaysia
The moisty tropical atmosphere of Malaysia makes it an ideal home for gingers. Many species have been gathered by plant hunters from the Botanical Garden, "Taman Botani" in Penang, where a large Ginger garden is being made. The garden will act as an herbarial "Ark". As conditions are full and humid, species from Borneo are preserved. It is a nice, quiet place. Other species are brought from various and out-of-the-way habitats on Peninsular Malaysia. While painting the delicate Gloriosa, I was startled by a heavy crash in the bushes to my left. A large monitor lizard had been reading a bird's nest when he spotted me and had his babies.

Scaphochlamys sp.



Zingiber sulphureum

*Costus lateriflorus*⁵

Glabba nanawii



Borneo
The island of Borneo is comprised of three parts: the Northern Territory of Sarawak, Sabah and Labuan (Malaysia), with the Kingdom of Brunei between them, and the northern parts of Indonesian Kalimantan. There are many Terek Gingers to be found here. The Brunei side of "Nanga Sempu" (Sarawak) have many species growing around their village longhouses.
Another species of *Hornstedtia*, *H. arviculata*, is used for weaving mats by the local people. *H. cuneata* grows in both Sabah and Sarawak. It has unusual yellow flowers.



Olive backed Sunbird (m)

Hornstedtia tomentosa

Sarawak

Sarawak
I travelled by coach from Sarawak's capital, Kuching, along the main road towards Borneo.
After some hours we headed towards Kalimantan, the deep interior of Borneo. The Bus, who in the time of High Borneo years known as "Sun Dapple" in places, first stop in the midland and can only be reached by the long, narrow boats they still use to this day. A silhouette took me looking for Gingers and I found many in this area where nature is still intact.
The Bus and government boats and have nothing better than a "ginger" and "shrub" done in the evenings that they have paid one with "bank" - a strong rice wine.



Zingiber vinosum



The Longhouse

The First Longhouse is raised above the ground on stilts, partially for protection when the first floods and also to shelter village animals. The Longhouse at Nanga Sempu is divided into 30 sections or "kubik" in which an entire family lives. Before a family moves in, some ginger and rice is left there for a few days to let the spirits know the family is coming.
Gingers are widely used by the tribe. The Shuman use the roots from a honey GINGER rhizome to cure sick children. *Excoecaria perfoliata* is used to ward against being cursed and Gloriosa powder is used if you have a painful case. Shrub ginger is laid on the stomach to ease pain. Several species of ginger are used for a medicine with a narcotic. *Zingiber cassumata* (also *Z. montanum*) is boiled and sipped for a month after the birth.
Two species, *Plagiostachys adhaesiva* and *P. cuneata*, are considered when and may not be brought into the longhouse.

Unfinished painting of Zingiber sp.



Sabah

Sabah
Descending into Kota Kinabalu (Sabah), I could see the wing of one *Scaphochlamys* through a momentary gap in the thick forest, showing a faint blue.
The lightning and winds from the scarp from side to side and overhead we just dropped from the sky to a background of rainforest.
We wanted to be acclimatized to Hill with nothing visible in the thick blackness.
Just as suddenly, the pipe pulled us up from the only thick canopy and into the stars again. This time we passed through it and clipped out the fat fish.
We were free of the transport climbing above "Sabah" whose name means "Land Below the Wind".

Chelioscostes sp. (found near the Danum Valley, Sabah)



Etingera pyramidosphaera



Plagiostachys sp.



I painted many strange gingers in the Danum Valley which is uncontacted primary rainforest. On the five hour ride along remote roads through secondary rainforest to reach the valley, I was told that the logging tracks have been collecting trees, especially killed by storms. Once cleared, the land is used for palm oil plantations.

