

Protected Species Conservation Plan: *Aegiphila caymanensis*

A report to the National Conservation Council

Consultations made under section 17 (sub-sections 4 & 5) of the National Conservation Act, 2013.

Introduction

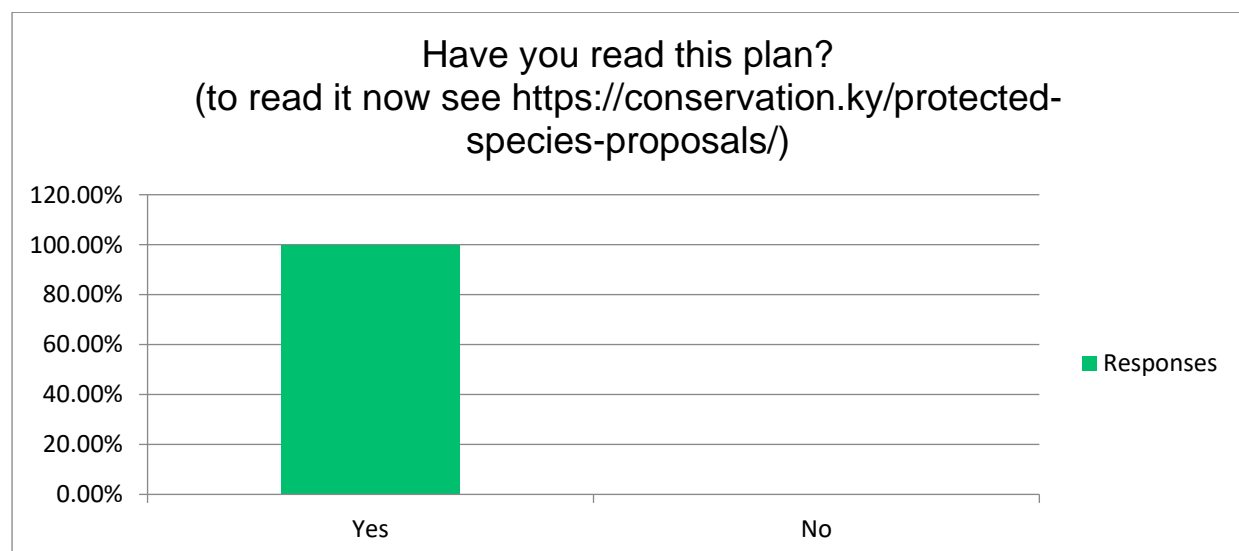
In accordance with Section 17 (sub-sections 1 - 3) of the National Conservation Act, 2013, (NCA) the Department of Environment has prepared a draft Conservation Plan for *Aegiphila caymanensis*.

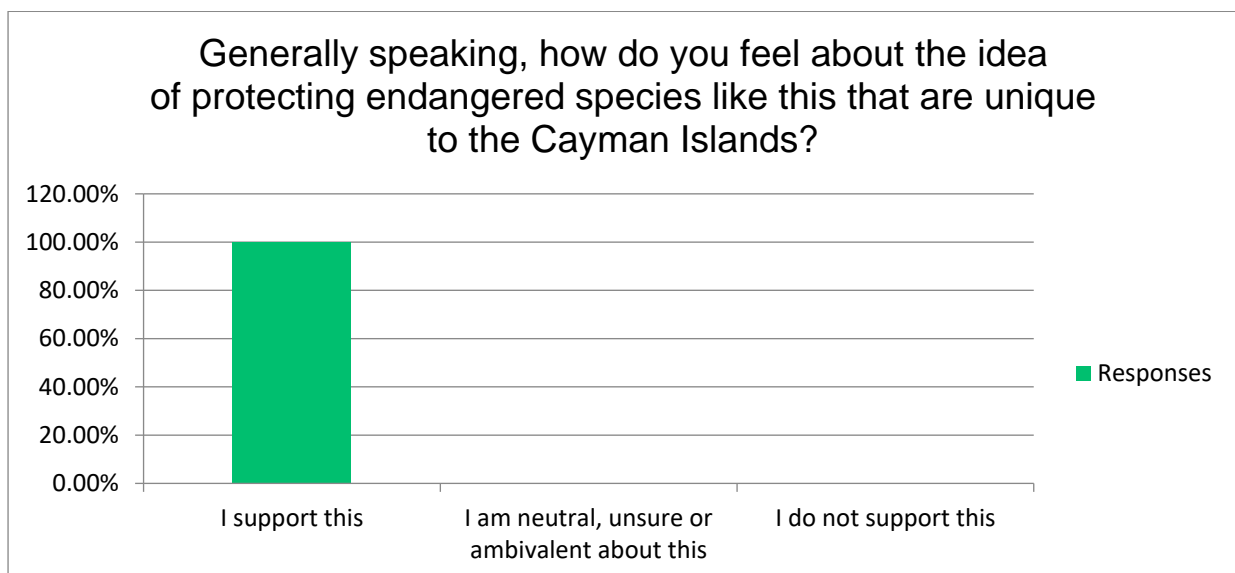
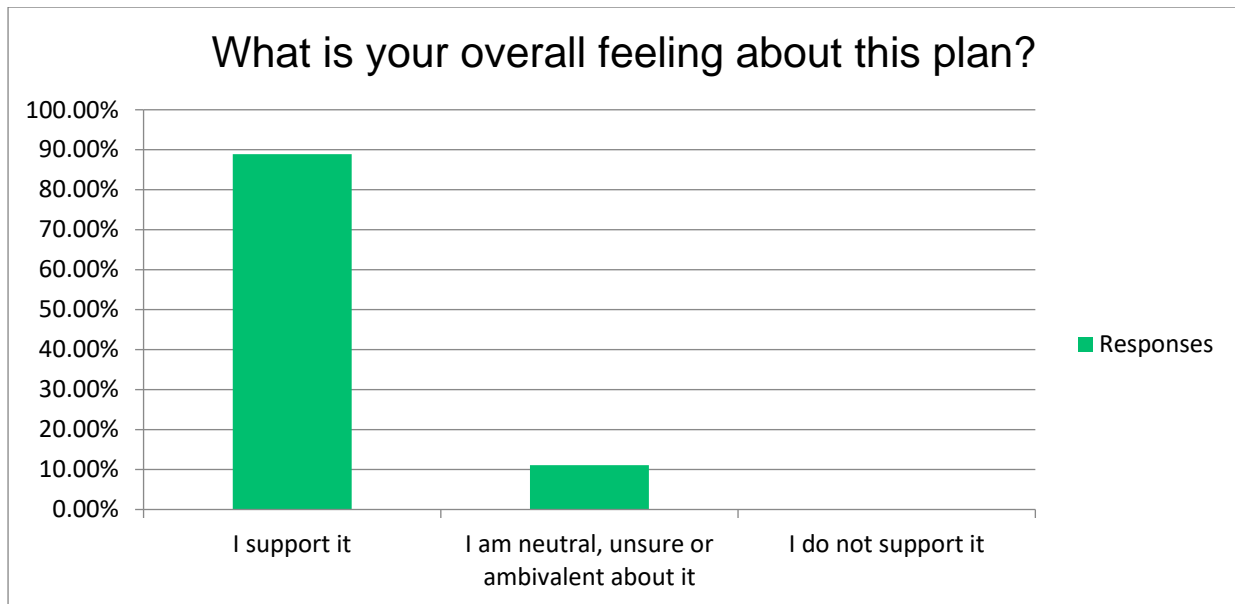
From 20 November 2020 to 15 January 2021 the draft plan was released for public consultation, with newspaper advertisements issued on 13th and 20th November 2020 and copies of the plan available online and in hard copy at the Department of Environment office on Grand Cayman. The advertised notice allowed for 62 days from the second advertisement before the consultation formally closed, well in excess of the 28 days required by the Act.

A copy of the notice, and advertisements, are attached in Appendix 1.

Survey / Questionnaire

A Survey Monkey questionnaire was released during the same time, with the same questions in paper form available at the DoE. Of the 9 Respondents, 100% had read the plan, 90% (8) support the proposed plan and 100% support the idea of protecting endangered species unique to the Cayman Islands.





Results of Consultation

4 parties responded in writing to the Protected Species Proposal for *Aegiphila caymanensis* within the set public consultation period dates. 2 of the respondents have requested further analysis be done to clarify if species variants are not indicative of an alternate species. One additional person contacted the Department of Environment thinking they had seen an *Aegiphila* based on the picture published for the consultation, but it turned out to be *Murraya paniculata*, a common introduced species. The fourth respondent requested clarification of how an aspect of the proposed plan would operate.

Respondent 1 – Received November 20, 2020

The Respondent believed to have a specimen on her property. After review it was confirmed the plant was a different species.

Respondent 2 - January 1, 2021

It was submitted by the Respondent that the identified species in East End are significantly dissimilar from *Aegiphila caymanensis* and thus believed to be a different species.

Respondent 3 – January 15, 2021

It was submitted by the Respondent that the identified species in North Side are significantly dissimilar from *Aegiphila caymanensis* and thus believed to be a different species.

Respondent 4 – January 15th, 2021

The respondent submitted strong support for the propagation and preservation of endangered species through home horticulture.

Written responses are attached in Appendix 2.

A copy of the survey form is attached in Appendix 3.

A tabulation of the Survey Monkey responses is attached in Appendix 4.

Department of Environment Recommendations Based on Results of Consultation

Taking into account the comments received the Department of Environment does not recommend any changes to the draft species Conservation Plan.

The Department of Environment notes the comments regarding identification of the species in question. The DoE has viewed the specimens in question. The Department also consulted with horticultural experts from the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park and have sent samples to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and is confident of the accuracy of the identification of the species, including through genetic testing. Though it is possible that with further study as recommended in the draft Conservation Plan the taxonomic identification of *Aegiphila caymanensis* may be further refined.

Under NCA Section 17(5) the following minor revision is proposed to the monitoring & research section of the draft Management Plan, in light of the public consultation, as follows:

1. Genetic analysis be continue to be conducted on all *Aegiphila caymanensis* specimens, including any found in the future, to ensure that they are unambiguously identified as *Aegiphila caymanensis* and any cryptic *Aegiphila* species or subspecies are detected if they exist.

With this proposed minor change the DoE respectfully submits this draft plan to the National Conservation Council for confirmation under NCA section 17.



Species Conservation Plan for *Aegiphila caymanensis*

National Conservation Law, section 17

Conservation Status

Aegiphila caymanensis is a woody, clambering shrub with soft, downy leaves. It is unique to Grand Cayman. It was assessed in the global IUCN Red List in 2014, and is currently listed as Critically Endangered*.

The species is listed as a protected species in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the National Conservation Law (NCL).

Nomenclature

Historically there has been some debate over the correct identity of *Aegiphila caymanensis*, which on Grand Cayman was confused with a specimen of the liana *Aegiphila elata* at Spotts, and another *Aegiphila* species that occurs in the Lower Valley region. Genetic analysis has confirmed the taxonomic identity of surviving *Aegiphila caymanensis* as a unique Grand Cayman endemic species quite distinct from the regionally distributed species *A. elata* and *A. martinicensis*.

Because of its extreme rarity, *Aegiphila caymanensis* has never gained a traditional common name.

* Burton, F.J. & Barrios, S. 2014. *Aegiphila caymanensis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2014.

Species, Ecology and Threats

At the time of writing this Conservation Plan, *Aegiphila caymanensis* is only known from three locations, comprising a total of fourteen specimens. Two were left isolated within a recently cleared dry forest in East End, and ten specimens survive in former farm land near a dry forest ridge in North Side. The other two known specimens are located in West Bay, off Conch Point Road adjacent to a fragment of dry forest. Additional specimens are likely to exist in other locations, but given the absence of sightings during past surveys and targeted fieldwork to date it is evident that this species is extremely rare, and endangered by habitat loss. As a species inhabiting higher ground *Aegiphila caymanensis* may not be immediately threatened by sea level rise but other direct and indirect impacts of climate change, and alien invasive plant pests are among potential threats of concern.

This is a woody shrub which apparently occurs naturally in dry forest where its long slender branches clamber up into the tree canopy. The known specimens indicate it is capable of growing on karst rock terrain, and in red and in sandy soils, and can persist in anthropogenic clearings. The species appears to be dichogamous (producing male and female flowers at different times), with individuals being either protandrous or protogynous (first producing male, or female flowers respectively).

Seeds of this species are highly recalcitrant and difficult to germinate, which presents challenges for propagation of a genetically diverse cultivated collection for population restoration purposes. Clonal propagation of individuals by cuttings is also proving technically challenging but possible.

Conservation objectives

The goal of this Conservation Plan is to ensure the survival of *Aegiphila caymanensis* as a sustainable wild population. Specific objectives are as follows:

- An improved assessment of the existing population size and distribution of this species

- All known specimens in the wild are protected through National Conservation Law (NCL) Permits, Conservation Agreements, Critical Habitat designation, or Protected Area designation as appropriate, including sufficient buffer to maintain habitat integrity immediately around those specimens in wild settings.
- All specimens in cultivation and in man-modified landscapes are closely managed under the terms of Permits issued under the NCL.
- Subject to feasibility and without endangering the surviving wild origin specimens, propagation techniques are developed and a sustainable cultivated population is established at the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park (QEII BP) as a safeguard against loss of known individuals and as a source of plants for restoration in the wild.
- Subject to successful conservation propagation and the identification of ecologically appropriate protected habitat for restoration, additional individuals propagated at the QEII BP and representing the maximum genetic diversity available are planted into the wild to restore a larger wild population size.

Conservation Strategies

Habitat protection

In the event that additional specimens or populations of *Aegiphila caymanensis* are found in the wild which warrant habitat protection, the NCC will seek appropriate measures to protect the habitat within which these specimens exist. This may involve proposing to establish or expand protected areas through s.7 of the NCL, or through Conservation Agreements under s.13 of the NCL; or by designation of Critical Habitat through a revision to this Plan.

Conservation propagation and restoration

The Department of Environment (DoE) is permitted, in partnership with the QE II Botanic Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and with other agencies or private entities or individuals as appropriate, subject to permit by the NCC, to conduct artificial propagation and/or seed banking of specimens to maintain a reserve of the species' genetic diversity that could be re-established

in event of loss of the wild population. Establishment of ex-situ populations (outside of Grand Cayman) is not contemplated or authorized at this time.

Artificially propagated specimens will be managed to maximize genetic diversity and may be used to supply individuals for restoration to the wild.

Monitoring and research

The DoE will research and monitor the distribution and health of the *Aegiphila caymanensis* population and maintain collaborative research arrangements to improve understanding of the status, biology and ecology of this species.

Public outreach, education and awareness

Once all known specimens are covered by Permits as part of the implementation of this Conservation Plan, the DoE will design and initiate a public outreach effort with emphasis on Grand Cayman, to culminate in selection and adoption of a common name for *Aegiphila caymanensis*.

Conservation Controls

Critical Habitat

No Critical Habitat is defined for *Aegiphila caymanensis* at this time.

Control of take

All specimens of *Aegiphila caymanensis* are protected at all times, and take, possession, purchase, sale, donation and exchange are offences under all the provisions of s.33 (1) of the NCL, unless a permit has been issued under s.20. Control of take includes artificial or assisted propagation from seed, cuttings, division, air-layering, tissue culture or any other technique, for any reason.

Within 6 weeks of this Plan coming into effect, all suspected specimens of *Aegiphila caymanensis* that have already been taken from or have been artificially propagated from the wild population or are otherwise in cultivation must be brought to the attention of the DoE for permitting under the NCL, or surrendered for conservation relocation at the DoE's discretion after taking into account the current owner's preference, the health and security of the specimen, and the feasibility of relocation. Three months after the date this conservation plan comes into effect the knowing possession of any unpermitted cultivated specimens of *Aegiphila caymanensis* will be treated as an offence under s.33 (1) of the NCL.

Consultation on development proposals

The NCC will advise any government agency making decisions affecting known specimens of *Aegiphila caymanensis* that no actions can be permitted that may involve any direct or indirect take of *Aegiphila caymanensis*.

Import and export

Aegiphila caymanensis may not be exported from Grand Cayman to Little Cayman, to Cayman Brac or anywhere else in the world without a permit under the NCL.

Implementation, Evaluation and Review

Responsibility for implementing this plan lies primarily with the NCC, and the DoE. At the date of commencement of this plan, the QEII BP and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew are partnering with DoE to advance key aspects of this work.

This Conservation Plan will be evaluated periodically by the DoE, and at such time that any revision appears to be necessary, the Department will bring proposed revisions to the NCC.

Species Success Criteria & Cost Estimates

Because *Aegiphila caymanensis* is naturally restricted to the small areas of dry forest remaining in Grand Cayman (much of which is currently not protected), and considering the technical challenges limiting artificial propagation, it cannot be confidently predicted that its wild population can be restored to an extent where it is no longer critically endangered. Its entire wild population is likely to remain at risk from largely unpredictable threats such as the arrival of a new plant pest, for the immediately foreseeable future.

This species therefore is expected to have to remain in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the NCL for now without a time frame for any future removal to Part 2.

If it does prove possible to restore a large viable population of *Aegiphila caymanensis* in the wild, then the criterion for removal to Part 2 of Schedule 1 will be its formal down-listing from Critically Endangered, to Endangered or less, in the IUCN Red List.

Costs for implementation of this plan can be covered within the recurrent budgets of the DoE and other agencies that may partner in this work, potentially supplemented by external grant funds.

Legal Basis

Section 17 of the National Conservation Law, 2013 requires the National Conservation Council to formulate and adopt a conservation plan for each protected species whose range includes the Islands.

Schedule 1, Part 1 of the Law designates species that are the subject of protection at all times.

Species conservation plans must set out the steps which the Council considers to be necessary to achieve the conservation and survival of the species and their critical habitat.

For species listed in Part 1 of Schedule 1 the Plan must include:

- (i) objective, measurable criteria which, when met, would result in a determination that the species no longer requires the protection of Part 1;
- (ii) estimates of the time required and the costs involved to carry out those measures needed to achieve such goals and to achieve any intermediate steps towards that goal.

Priority is accorded to the development of Plans for threatened or endangered species that are at risk from development projects or other forms of economic activity, or that would otherwise be most likely to benefit from such plans.

Species Conservation Plans may take into account traditional cultural needs and applicable regional programmes under the various biological, conservation and climate change Conventions to which the Cayman Islands are party [section 6(2)(j)].



Public Notice:
Species Conservation Plan
for *Aegiphila caymanensis*

The National Conservation Council (NCC) is seeking public comments on a plan to protect and conserve *Aegiphila caymanensis* which has no traditional name (due to its extreme rarity). Currently listed as Critically Endangered, it is a woody, clambering shrub with soft, downy leaves that is unique to Grand Cayman.

The public consultation period will begin on 20 November 2020 and end on 15 January 2021. The species conservation plan would ban any taking, possession, purchase, sale, or exchange of the *Aegiphila caymanensis* plant without a permit.

Copies of the proposal may be obtained online at <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/> or at the Department of Environment (DoE) offices at 580 North Sound Road. Comments on the proposal may be emailed to ConservationCouncil@gov.ky, received at the DoE offices, or mailed to PO Box 10202, Grand Cayman KY1-1002.

A survey document, which will be promoted on the DoE's social media pages, is also available at <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/>

Community Notices



DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

CAYMAN BRAC & LITTLE CAYMAN
ANNUAL BULK WASTE
REMOVAL DATES

- Cayman Brac East.....Dec. 9-10
- Cayman Brac West.....Dec. 16-17
- Cayman Brac South.....Dec. 18
- Little Cayman.....Dec. 22





DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

GRAND CAYMAN
ANNUAL BULK WASTE
REMOVAL DATES

- East End/ Northside Nov. 16 – 21
- Bodden Town Nov. 23 – Dec. 5
- George Town Dec. 7-12
- West Bay Dec. 14-19



DEH Bulk Waste Removal Campaign Begins

The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) will commence its annual bulk waste removal activity on Monday, 16 November 2020 and conclude on Monday, 21 December 2020.

Residents are asked to place their bulk waste on the kerbside during the dates specified. Collection will commence immediately thereafter.

Grand Cayman:

- East End/ Northside — November 16 - 21
- Bodden Town — November 23 - December 5
- George Town — December 7-12
- West Bay — December 14-19

Cayman Brac and Little Cayman:

- Cayman Brac East — December 9-10
- Cayman Brac West — December 16-17
- Cayman Brac South — December 18
- Little Cayman — December 22


Bulk waste must be placed on the kerbside where it is easily accessible to DEH collection crews but will not obstruct the roadway. Bulk items that are put out after scheduled dates will not be collected.

Metals and vegetative waste must be separated from other bulk waste items.



Metal waste includes items such as old appliances, metal furniture and metal roofing while vegetative waste includes plant trimmings and tree branches.

Bulk waste refers to large items such as old furniture, household appliances and vegetative waste that are not collected as part of the DEH’s weekly residential pick-up services. Construction and demolition debris are not considered bulk waste and will not be collected during the bulk waste removal activity.

For addition information about DEH bulk waste removal, please visit our website at www.deh.gov.ky. Queries or concerns may also be directed to DEH Solid Waste Unit (Grand Cayman) by telephone on 949-8793, or 948-2321 for persons located in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. 



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Department of
Commerce and
Investment to Close –
Nov 13 & 24

The Department of Commerce and Investment (DCI) advises the public of the following office closure:



DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE & INVESTMENT
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

- Friday, November, 13, all day for staff training; and
- Tuesday, November, 24 - from 12:00 p.m. for staff function.

Applications for trade and business licences can be submitted online at www.dci.gov.ky. Members of the public can contact DCI for trade and business and other licensing information via info@dci.gov.ky 

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COVID UPDATE | COMMUNITY NOTICE

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Friday, November 20, 2020 | Issue No 604

CAYMANIAN TIMES

COVID-19 UPDATE

SECOND COVID DEATH IN CAYMAN

It was confirmed this week that another person had succumbed to COVID-19 in Cayman bringing the number of deaths to two since the disease showed up on our shores in March this year.

While that's a small number compared to COVID-related deaths in other countries in the region, concerns have been heightened about the risk of fatality resulting from the virus.

The deceased was said to be a woman traveller who had been hospitalised for over a month after returning from Jamaica.

She had tested positive while in quarantine.

A government coronavirus update earlier this week reported that there were 14 active COVID-19 cases as at November 17th but none were hospitalised.

Of that number one person was displaying symptoms while the other 13 were asymptomatic.

With the limited reopening of the borders, there has been a corresponding uptick in the number of confirmed cases associated with flights coming in mainly from the UK, US and Jamaica.

Up to earlier this week, there were 872 persons in isolation and testing was getting close to the 50,000 mark with 49,852 tests now carried out.

The figures then showed that Cayman had recorded 257 confirmed cases since the pandemic started of which 241 had recovered.

The Public Health Department has explained that it defines symptomatic patients as those persons showing symptoms 10 days after symptom onset, plus at least 3 additional days without symptoms (including without fever and without respiratory symptoms).

Persons will then be retested and must obtain two negative tests 24 hours apart.

Asymptomatic cases are determined 10 days after a positive test for COVID-19. Persons will be then be retested and must obtain two negative tests 24 hours apart.

The governments test, isolate and trace regime has recently been the topic of much debate associated with whether or not the opening of the borders should be relaxed even further especially considering the upcoming Christmas and peak winter tourist season.

However, indications from the government are that there's not likely to be any significant deviation from the current policy.

Globally, many countries are intensifying the fight against the virus which has now moved into a second serious wave of the outbreak.

The United States which now has more than 11 million confirmed cases is the country with the highest number of infections in the world.

More Americans are now hospitalised with the disease than in the first wave and about 1,0000 persons a day are said to be dying from the disease.

More than 246,000 people have died in the US from Covid-19, according to Johns Hopkins and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) fears that the death toll could be as high as 282,000 by early next month.

In the UK, England continues on lockdown until December 2nd with targeted restrictions in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as cases and fatalities increase.

However, the global grim picture of the pandemic has been tempered with the good news over the past few days of new vaccines in development showing very promising signs of success. 🌐



National Conservation Council
Cayman Islands

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Items for Removal During Bulk Waste Campaign

The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) commenced its annual bulk waste removal activity yesterday Monday, 16 November 2020 and will conclude on Monday, 21 December 2020.

DEH wishes to remind the community that the following items are not considered bulk waste and will not be collected as part of this campaign:

Derelict Vehicles - Arrangements for collection of these must be made separately and collected according to the law. The cost to have a derelict vehicle removed is CI\$75 and DEH can be contacted separately to make arrangement for collection.

Construction and Demolition Debris - DEH does not have equipment to pick up and load these materials from the roadside therefore these will not be collected during the bulk waste removal activity.

Bulk waste refers to large items such as old furniture, household appliances and vegetative waste that are not collected as part of the DEH's weekly residential pick-up services.

In order that DEH collects bulk waste in the most efficient manner residents must place bulk waste on the kerbside during the dates specified.

Not all waste can be put in the same truck, therefore DEH requests that metals and vegetative waste are separated before collections. Metal waste includes items such as old appliances, metal furniture and metal roofing while vegetative waste includes plant trimmings and tree branches.

Grand Cayman:

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- Bodden Town – November 23 – December 5



- George Town – December 7-12
- West Bay – December 14-19

Cayman Brac and Little Cayman:

- Cayman Brac East – December 9-10
- Cayman Brac West – December 16-17
- Cayman Brac South – December 18
- Little Cayman – December 22

"DEH work to provide these collections alongside normal operations so we ask that bulk waste items are not put out after scheduled dates as this could affect regular collections. We are happy to provide this annual service to the community and appreciate their efforts to comply with the collection measures for the ease and safety of our crew," said Mr Michael Haworth – Assistant Director, Solid Waste.

For additional information about DEH bulk waste removal, please visit our website at www.deh.gov.ky. Queries or concerns may also be directed to DEH Solid Waste Unit (Grand Cayman) by telephone on 949-8793, or 948-2321 for persons located in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. 🌐

Passport & Corporate Services Closes Early to Facilitate Staff Training

The Passport and Corporate Services Office will close early at 2pm on Thursday, 19th November and again on Monday 23rd November to facilitate staff training.

Regular office hours will resume on Friday, 20th November and Tuesday, 24th November.

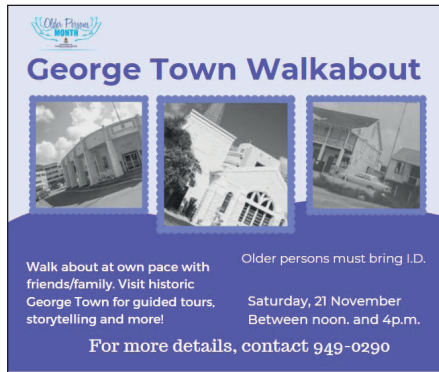
Contact passport&corporate@gov.ky or 943-7678 with questions or queries. 🌐

Rescheduled Older Persons Month George Town Walkabout

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is holding its Older Persons Month George Town Walkabout on Saturday, 21 November 2020 from noon to 4 pm.

The intergenerational event, which was postponed in October due to inclement weather, encourages older persons to take the tour with friends and family and has following route:

- GT Public Library – Register for walkabout and listen to local storytellers, watch Life Stories videos
- Constitution Hall – Musical entertainment
- Wall of History & Heroes Square – View historical monuments and talk with youngsters about past events
- Elmslie Memorial Church – Guided tour, Olive Miller display, place prayers requests on prayer tree
- GT Post Office – Send postcards and mail to family



- CI National Museum - Looky Ya, 4-8pm - Traditional & specialty vendors, exhibition opening, tour, cassava cake competition, live music, performances and traditional attire competition.

Older persons are asked to take along some form of photo identification as it will entitle them to complimentary refreshments.

For further details, call the DCFS at 949-0290. 🌐



Caymanian Times

Issue # 604

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Website: www.caymaniantimes.ky

-----Original Message-----

From: Fred Burton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2020 14:21
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: ENV Conservation Council <ConservationCouncil@gov.ky>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Your white flowered plant

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Thank you for sending the photo of your white flowered shrub. With help from colleagues at the Botanic Park I've tentatively identified it as an orange jessamine plant, *Murraya paniculata*. Also called china box or mock orange.

So it is a garden plant native to south & southeast Asia, not our unique *Aegiphila caymanensis*.

But thanks for keeping a sharp eye out!

All the best,

Fred

Frederic J Burton
Manager, Terrestrial Resources Unit
Department of Environment

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 5:44 PM
To: ENV Conservation Council <ConservationCouncil@gov.ky>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aegiphila-caymanensis

Good Evening,

I read in Cayman Compass regarding this plant . We have a plant in our backyard which looks very much like *Aegiphila Caymanensis*.

It's been there for many years. Some one may have to come and take a look at the plant if it's the same plant or not. I have attached pictures for reference .

Hope this will help .

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Phone - [REDACTED]

November 23rd 2020

To the board members of the National Conservation Council

Re: *Aegiphila caymanensis*

Aegiphila caymanensis has been put to the public for their opinion by the Department of Environment. My comment is as followed.

The process of identification and name attribution necessitate a professional due diligence;

- Contact the curator where the Type specimen is housed to discuss the keys
- Or at the very least to view the specimen in person under microscope before changing the attribution of it's a name.

I am adding Moldenke's (the authority for the family at the time) description and scientific keys of this genus and family to understand the questions that I raise regarding this plant. Foot notes and pictures are added for clarity

Moldenke's English description and keys for *Aegiphila caymanensis* already exist with Type specimen #228141 at the Chicago Field Museum Searle herbarium being the best information on this plant that we have so far.

JSTOR <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2804645.pdf>

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Quote – p.353, 354 “54. ***Aegiphila caymanensis*** Moldenke in Fedde, Repert. 33: 118. 1933. Shrub; branchlets slender, white, very densely spreading-pilose with short white hairs, becoming more sparsely so in age; leaf-scars elevated; internodes 1.5-3 cm. long; leaves decussate; petioles slender, 5-6 mm. long, spreading-pilose like the branchlets; blades membranous, similar in color on both surfaces, oblong-lanceolate, 6.5-9 cm. long, 2.8-3.8 cm. wide, **acute or acuminate at apex (*1)**, entire, acute at base, **scabrous (*2) on both surfaces**, often very pronouncedly so and often ciliate along the margins; midrib slender, prominent beneath, more or less pilose or finally only scabrous; secondaries few, slender, about 5 pairs, barely discernible on either surface; veinlets indiscernible; inflorescence eymose, loosely spreading, axillary or often terminating short axillary or subterminal twigs, few-flowered, bracteolate, very slender and lax throughout; peduncles very slender, to 24 mm. long, abbreviated on purely axillary eymes to 4 mm., pilose; pedicels filiform, 6-9 mm. long, pilose; bracts large and foliaceous, lanceolate or oblong; bractlets setaceous; calyx turbinate, about 4.1 mm. long and 3.1 mm. wide, glabrate or granular-pulverulent, its rim subtruneate, minutely 4-apiculate; corolla infundibular, its tube cylindric, about 13.5 mm. long, glabrous, its lobes 4, oblong-lingulate, about 5.2 mm. long and 2 mm. wide, acute; **stamens 4 (*3)**, inserted about 2 mm. below the mouth of the corolla-tube, **exserted (*4) (in ♂ male)**; filaments filiform, 3.1-3.8 mm. long, glabrous; anthers oblong, about 1.5 mm. long and 0.9 mm. wide; pistil included (in d); style capillary, about 3.1 mm. long, glabrous; stigma bifid, its branches about 4.6 mm. long; ovary subglobose, glabrous, 4-celled; fruiting-calyx enlarged and indurated, shallowly cupuliform or patelliform, about 2.5 mm. long and 7 mm. wide, glabrate, very lax and loose around the fruit; fruit [immature?] oblong, about 7 mm. long and 5 mm. wide, glabrous.

The type of this very puzzling species was collected by Albert Spear Hitchcock in the Cayman Islands, and is deposited in the herbarium of the Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago. It is a most characteristic species because of its often very densely and shortly white-pilose branchlets, petioles, peduncles, and pedicels, its scabrous leaf-blades, its lax, spreading, few-flowered inflorescence, and its elongate and filiform pedicels. Its affinities are apparently in the group Trifidaceae, the other members of which are endemic to Haiti and Jamaica. It

seems most nearly related in size and shape of leaves and form of inflorescence to *A. Swartziana*, at least, to the Harris specimens here regarded as representing that species.

A. caymanensis on superficial examination exhibits many of the characters usually associated with the genus *Clerodendrum*. 2. CAYMIAN ISLANDS: Hitchcock s.n. (F-type, N-fragment)."



Volkameria aculeata (Grand Cayman)

The genus *Clerodendrum* has changed to *Volkameria*,

Foot notes the above description



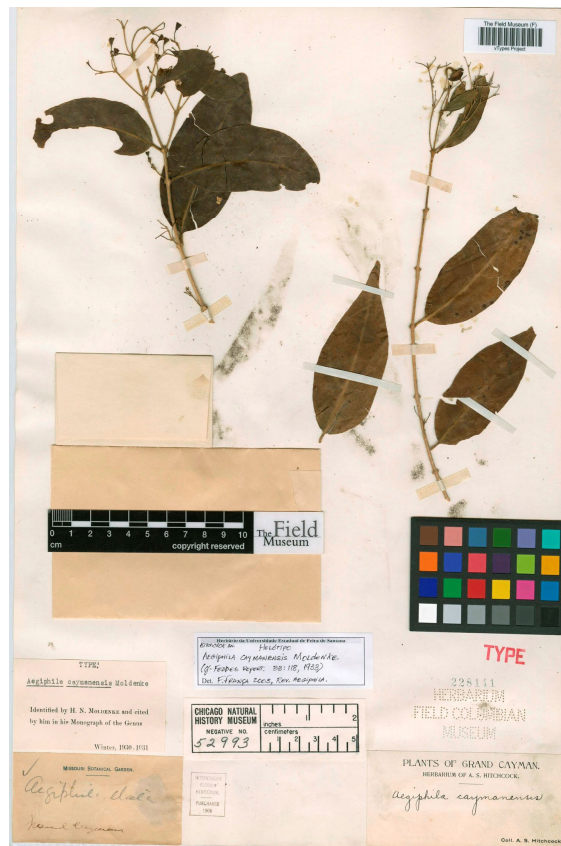
- *1 long pointed end of leaf
- *2 Rough hair on the

- *3, 4 long extending male parts on the flower



Lower Valley specimen above with extended male reproductive parts on the flower and pointed leaf end and rough leaf surface fits most keys for *Aegiphila caymanensis* as described above by Moldenke.

The Type specimen at the Field Museum is *Aegiphila caymanensis*, the specimen on the right. Note pointed end of the leaves. And of *Aegiphila* "Downy Form is on the upper left with more rounded end of leaves.



A picture of the same plant here below



Aegiphila "Downy Form" Male flower:

sessile (short) stamens, obtuse (Rounder) leaf apex, pilose / tomentose hair (Fuzzy)
does not fit most keys for *Aegiphila caymanensis* as described by Moldenke above.

I understand that stamens can vary in length as Moldenke noted in his observation before the description of this genus but since I have propagated both *Aegiphila* species and found that the keys were maintained in each of the respective species propagated. *Aegiphila* "Downy Form" is not described and doesn't fit keys previously described for this genus, hence "labeled a Form of" and not *A. caymanensis*.

I personally viewed the Type specimen under microscope and discussed all the documents associated with this Type at the Field Museum Searle herbarium with the curator, she does concur with me, they are two different specimens on the same Type, one is *A. caymanensis* (On the right) as described by Moldenke, the other is a form of it.

DNA sequencing was done on *A. "Downy Form"* at Kew to ascertain the species and as I understand samples held a similar genetic sequence or RNA. This only means that they all relate to the same species although unique as individual, it doesn't mean however that it is the already described species of "*caymanensis*".

The name *Aegiphila caymanensis* is already associated with a Type specimen; to attribute this name to *Aegiphila "Downy Form"* as a new species, we must understand the nomenclature protocol <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK8808/#A240>

a. If *A. "Downy Form"* is a completely new species it needs its own new name with a specimen designated as the Type, Holotype etc. representative (Nomenclature: -Rule 12b) https://sciweb.nybg.org/science2/herbarium_imaging/typedefinition.asp.html

b. No specific or subspecific epithets within the same genus may be the same if based on different types (see Rule 13c and Section 9). (Although here, it is true that both *Aegiphila* species were mounted on the same Type specimen.)

Moldenke did name this plant as a "Downy Form" of *Aegiphila caymanensis*, "*caymanensis*" as a species cannot be used again.

██████████ pointed out an unusual plant to me March 2014 well before I found the male and female *Aegiphila* at Health City during a field survey of native vegetation. It is after this that I invited Fred Burton to view the Health City specimens. The plant should be name after ██████████ if anything since it has now been proven to be new to science.

I easily propagated the *Aegiphila "Downy Form"* from ██████████ female plant and subsequently propagated the Lower Valley male *Aegiphila* plant. I also grew several from seeds from the female *Aegiphila* plant at Health City. I planted a female *Aegiphila* next to the male *Aegiphila* during the Phase II landscaping. I do currently have a male *Aegiphila "Downy Form"* in bloom now.

I do hope that this plant can be protected, as a native plant grower; I do feel that propagation for retail is also conservation. I hope to be considered for a special permit holder for this species. Holding private property hostage to rare plants is not a viable way forward; you will find an increase of Sunday deforestation and defeated the conservation purpose.

Sincerely
██████████

12 January 2021

The Chairman,
National Conservation Council
c/o Department of Environment
P O Box 10202 Grand Cayman KY1-1002

Aegiphila caymanensis

Response to draft Conservation Plan published 20 November 2020 (prepared and submitted in terms of ss.17(4)(d) and 17(5) National Conservation Law 2013)

Aegiphila caymanensis as a species, has already been identified and named. The shrub found on our parcel in North Side and claimed in the draft Conservation Plan to be *Aegiphila caymanensis* may in fact be a new species and not *A. caymanensis*. As owners of several of these specimens occurring in the wild, we would need to know how the Department of Environment came to believe them to be *A. caymanensis* and not a different species.

Aegiphila caymanensis

Aegiphila caymanensis is a rare species of shrub identified and collected on Grand Cayman by A.S. Hitchcock on or around 1891 and reported as such as *Aegiphila* No. 54 by botanist and taxonomist H.N. Moldenke on pages 353 and 354 of the April 1934 issue (No. 5/6) of 'Brittonia', a quarterly journal of botanical research published by the New York Botanical Garden Press (Bronx, NYC). The journal entry is transcribed in its completeness as follows:

54. *Aegiphila caymanensis* Moldenke in Fedde, Repert. 33: 118. 1933.
(54)

Shrub; branchlets slender, white, very densely spreading-pilose with short white hairs, becoming more sparsely so in age; leaf-scars elevated; internodes 1.5 - 3 cm. long; leaves decussate; petioles slender, 5 - 6 mm. long, spreading-pilose like the branchlets; blades membranous, similar in color on both surfaces, oblong-lanceolate, 6.5 - 9 cm. long, 2.8 - 3.8 cm. wide, acute or acuminate at apex, entire, acute at base, scabrous on both surfaces, often very pronouncedly so and often ciliate along the

margins; midrib slender, prominent beneath, more or less pilose or finally only scabrous; secondaries few, slender, about 5 pairs, barely discernible on either surface; veinlets indiscernible; inflorescence cymose, loosely spreading, axillary or often terminating short axillary or subterminal twigs, few-flowered, bracteolate, very slender and lax throughout; peduncles very slender, to 24 mm. long, abbreviated on purely axillary cymes to 4 mm., pilose; pedicels filiform, 6 - 9 mm. long, pilose; bracts large and foliaceous, lanceolate or oblong; bractlets setaceous; calyx turbinate, about 4.1 mm. long and 3.1 mm. wide, glabrate or granular-pulverulent, its rim subtruncate, minutely 4-apiculate; corolla infundibular, its tube cylindric, about 13.5 mm. long, glabrous, its lobes 4, oblong-lingulate, about 5.2 mm. long and 2 mm. wide, acute; stamens 4, inserted about 2 mm. below the mouth of the corolla-tube, exerted (in) ; filaments filiform, 3.1 - 3.8 mm. long, glabrous; anthers oblong, about 1.5 mm. long and 0.9 mm. wide; pistil included (in) ; style capillary, about 3.1 mm. long, glabrous; stigma bifid, its branches about 4.6 mm. long; ovary subglobose, glabrous, 4-celled; fruiting-calyx enlarged and indurated, shallowly cupuliform or patelliform, about 2.5 mm. long and 7 mm. wide, glabrate, very lax and loose around the fruit; fruit [immature?] oblong, about 7 mm. long and 5 mm. wide, glabrous.

The type of this very puzzling species was collected by Albert Spear Hitchcock in the Cayman Islands, and is deposited in the herbarium of the Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago. It is a most characteristic species because of its often very densely and shortly white-pilose branchlets, petioles, peduncles, and pedicels, its scabrous leaf-blades, its lax, spreading, few-flowered inflorescence, and its elongate and filiform pedicels. Its affinities are apparently in the group *Trifidae*, the other members of which are endemic to Haiti and Jamaica. It seems most nearly related in size and shape of leaves and form of inflorescence to *A. Swartziana*, at least, to the Harris specimens here regarded as representing that species. *A. caymanensis* on superficial examination exhibits many of the characters usually associated with the genus *Clerodendrum*.

A specimen of *A. caymanensis* is believed to have been found in Lower Valley, Grand Cayman (refer Annexure A). A specimen of *A. caymanensis* as collected by Hitchcock in 1891 exists as a pressing 'CAYMAN ISLANDS: Hitchcock s.n. (F-type, N-fragment)' in the herbarium collection of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago IL (refer Annexure B).

On 20 November 2020, a draft Species Conservation Plan for *A. caymanensis* was published by the National Conservation Council in terms of section 17 of the National Conservation Law (2013). The Plan motivates for the protection of a rare woody, clambering shrub with soft, downy leaves unique to Grand Cayman and which is claimed to be *A. caymanensis*.

In the covering motivation for the Plan, it is stated that there had been historically some debate over the correct identity of the identified specimens claimed to be *A. caymanensis* which were apparently confused with a specimen of the liana *Aegiphila elata* (refer Annexure C) at Spotts and another *Aegiphila* species occurring in the Lower Valley region, and even with the 'true' *A. caymanensis*, a specimen of which is held at the Botanic Park. To further compound the confusion, *A. caymanensis* is pictorially described on page 60, 'Threatened Plants of the Cayman Islands: The Red List' (F. J. Burton, 2008) as *A. caymanensis* but where the picture is of *A. elata* - the same picture of *A. elata* appearing in 'Flora of the Cayman Islands (2nd Edition)' (G. Proctor, 2012), on Plate 56/5 but erroneously described as *A. caymanensis*.

Aegiphila 'downy-form'

On or around January 2014, we acquired a parcel on which we discovered a rare shrub not dissimilar to *A. caymanensis* as described by Moldenke but apparently with several discernable differences that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] claims would not make it *A. caymanensis*. This is the same species as another specimen [REDACTED] had found on the construction site adjacent to the Health City complex in East End, Grand Cayman. For convenience and to avoid conflation with *A. caymanensis*, this species is referred to in this Response as *A. 'downy-form'* (refer Annexure D).

The draft Conservation Plan contends that there are a total of 14 specimens of *A. caymanensis* in existence - two within a recently cleared dry forest in East End, ten near a dry forest ridge in North Side and two in West Bay adjacent to a fragment of dry forest. We believe that the North Side specimens as listed are in fact *A. 'downy-form'* and which could also be an extremely rare species of the genus *Aegiphila* which we contend, may be erroneously described in the draft Conservation Plan as being *A. caymanensis*.

Whilst the draft Conservation Plan claims that genetic analysis confirms all these specimens to be of the same species and that of *A. caymanensis*, the

shrub we call *A. 'downy-form'* is in some degree of conflict with the Moldenke-described *A. caymanensis* as published in Brittonia (refer above).

Without in any way detracting from the purpose and intent of the Conservation Plan as proposed, it is our contention that *A. 'downy-form'* as described (albeit sparsely) in the draft Plan, is not in fact *A. caymanensis* as more fully described by Moldenke.

We have taken Moldenke's species 'keys' for the species *A. caymanensis* as described in Brittonia (also referring to the recent specimen cutting and to the Natural Field Museum pressing attached as Annexures). We have inspected the specimen *A. 'downy-form'* as found on our parcel in North Side, and have noted where the *A. 'downy-form'* keys match those of *A. caymanensis* ('Yes') or are sufficiently at variance as not to match *A. caymanensis* ('No') in the reconfigured Moldenke species description below:

Yes No Key

- ○ shrub
- ○ branchlets slender, white, very densely spreading-pilose¹ with short white hairs, becoming more sparsely so in age
- ○ leaf-scars elevated
- ○ internodes² 15 - 30 mm long
- ○ leaves decussate³
- ○ petioles⁴ slender, 5 - 6 mm long, spreading-pilose like the branchlets
- ○ blades membranous, similar in colour on both surfaces, oblong-lanceolate⁵, 65 - 90 mm long, 28 - 38 mm wide
- ● acute or acuminate⁶ at apex, entire, acute at base

¹ covered with long soft hairs

² a part of a plant stem between two of the nodes from which leaves emerge

³ cross or intersect each other to form an X

⁴ the stalk that joins a leaf to a stem; leafstalk

⁵ of a narrow oval shape tapering to a point at each end

⁶ tapering to a point

Yes No Key

- ● scabrous⁷ on both surfaces, often very pronouncedly so and often ciliate⁸ along the margins
- ● midrib slender, prominent beneath, more or less pilose or finally only scabrous
- ○ secondaries⁹ few, slender, about 5 pairs, barely discernible on either surface
- ○ (reticulate) veinlets¹⁰ indiscernible
- ○ inflorescence cymose¹¹, loosely spreading, axillary¹² or often terminating short axillary or subterminal twigs, few-flowered, bracteolate¹³, very slender and lax
- ○ peduncles¹⁴ very slender, to 24 mm long, abbreviated on purely axillary¹⁵ cymes¹⁶ to 4 mm, pilose
- ○ pedicels¹⁷ filiform¹⁸, 6 - 9 mm long, pilose

⁷ having or covered with scales or small projections and rough to the touch

⁸ having a fringe of hairs

⁹ veins branching off the lead midrib

¹⁰ veins between secondaries and leaf edge- also referred to as tertiary veins

¹¹ characterised by the presence of a flower at the apex of the flower axis- growth of the main axis is limited and the lateral axis also terminates into flower and that limits the growth of the axis- the older flower is present terminally and the younger ones at the base

¹² in or growing from an axil (the angle between the top of a leaf or stem and the stem or branch from which it grows)

¹³ having bracteoles (small modified leaf bracts with a flower or flower cluster in its axil)

¹⁴ the stalk bearing a flower or fruit, or the main stalk of an inflorescence

¹⁵ in or growing from an axil (the angle between the top of a leaf or stem and the stem or branch from which it grows)

¹⁶ flower clusters each with a central stem bearing a single terminal flower that develops first, the other flowers in the cluster developing as terminal buds of lateral stems

¹⁷ a small stalk bearing an individual flower in an inflorescence

¹⁸ threadlike

Yes No Key

- ○ bracts¹⁹ large and foliaceous²⁰, lanceolate or oblong
- ○ bractlets setaceous²¹
- ○ calyx²² turbinate²³, about 4.1 mm long and 3.1 mm wide, glabrate²⁴ or granular-pulverulent, its rim subtruncate²⁵, minutely 4-apiculate²⁶
- ○ corolla²⁷ infundibular²⁸, its tube cylindric, about 13.5 mm. long, glabrous²⁹, its lobes 4, oblong-lingulate³⁰, about 5.2 mm. long and 2 mm. wide, acute;
- ● stamens³¹ 4, inserted about 2 mm below the mouth of the corolla-tube, exserted³² (in ♂)
- ● filaments filiform, 3.1 - 3.8 mm. long, glabrous;
- ○ anthers³³ oblong, about 1.5 mm. long and 0.9 mm. wide;

¹⁹ a modified leaf or scale, typically small, with a flower or flower cluster in its axil (the upper angle between a leaf stalk or branch and the stem or trunk from which it is growing)

²⁰ of or resembling a leaf or leaves

²¹ set with or consisting of bristles

²² the sepals of a flower, typically forming a whorl that encloses the petals and forms a protective layer around a flower in bud

²³ inversely conical, like a top

²⁴ becoming smooth

²⁵ nearly having the end square or even

²⁶ ending in a short sharp point (or points)

²⁷ the whorl of petals of a flower that collectively form an inner floral envelope

²⁸ funnel-shaped

²⁹ free from hair or down; smooth

³⁰ tongue-shaped

³¹ the male fertilizing organ of a flower consisting of a anther (head) and a filament

³² sticking out; protruding

³³ see footnote 26

Yes No Key

- ○ pistil³⁴ included (in ♂);
 - ○ style capillary, about 3.1 mm. long, glabrous
 - ○ stigma bifid³⁵, its branches about 4.6 mm long
 - ○ ovary subglobose³⁶, glabrous, 4-celled
- NOT OBSERVED fruiting-calyx enlarged and indurated³⁷, shallowly cupuliform³⁸ or patelliform³⁹, about 2.5 mm long and 7 mm wide, glabrate, very lax and loose around the fruit
- NOT OBSERVED fruit [immature?] oblong, about 7 mm long and 5 mm. wide, glabrous

As can be seen from the above comparison, while similarities predominate (as one would expect as both specimens are of the genus *Aegiphila*) there is sufficiently important variance in the typology of *A. 'downy-form'* to render it apart from *A. caymanensis* as a species. These differences (expressed in layman terms) are primarily in leaf shape, edge of leaf and leaf surface texture- smooth and downy or velvety in the case of *A. 'downy-form'* as opposed to glossy surfaced with rough-feeling leaf edges in the case of *A. caymanensis*; and in stamen structure (part of the species' reproductive system) and their relative protuberance- more pronounced in the case of *A. caymanensis* when compared to *A. 'downy-form'*.

We quote [REDACTED] assessment of these key differences- "*The stamens [of A. 'downy-form'] are shorter, the filament is shorter, the hair [covering on its leaf] is pilose to tomentose, not scabrous. The leaf is lanceolate obtuse at the apex, not acuminate.*"

It may therefore be inappropriate at this time to declare in the draft Plan that *A. 'downy-form'* is *A. caymanensis*. The Department of Environment as sponsors of the Conservation Plan for *A. caymanensis* should provide

³⁴ the female organs of a flower, comprising the stigma, style, and ovary

³⁵ divided by a deep cleft or notch into two parts

³⁶ somewhat globe-shaped but not having the perfect shape of a sphere or ball

³⁷ hardened

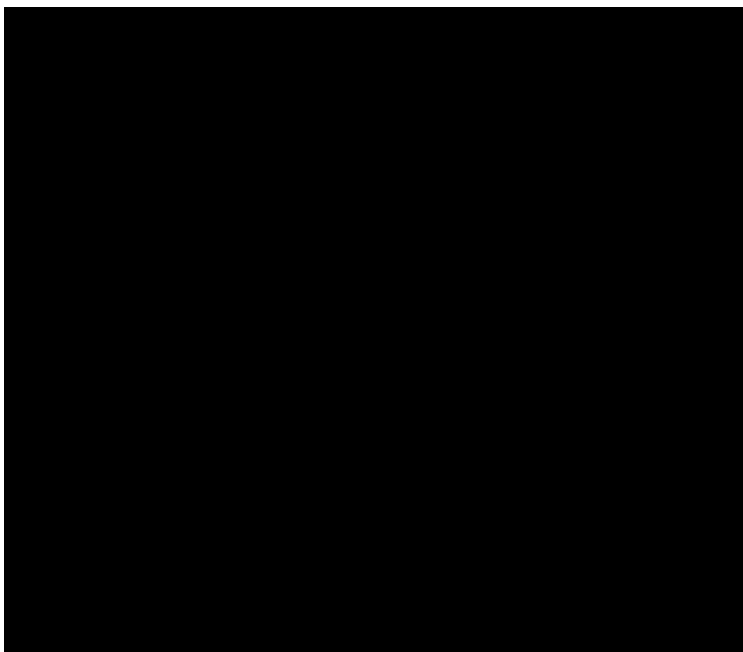
³⁸ nearly hemispherical, shaped like a cupola or dome

³⁹ disc-shaped with a narrow rim

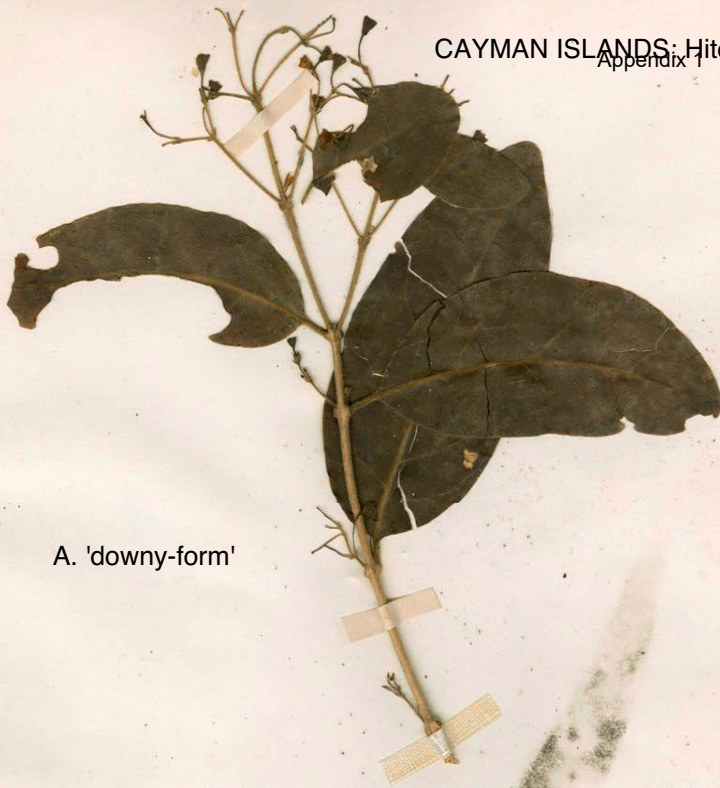
significantly more scientific research into *A. 'downy-form'* before declaring it to be *A. caymanensis*. We agree with the Department of Environment that *A. 'downy-form'* is, like *A. caymanensis*, an extremely rare and possibly endemic species of shrub that warrants not just protection but significantly more research to establish its correct credentials as a species. This research should establish, finally and beyond any doubt, whether *A. caymanensis* and *A. 'downy-form'* are in fact the same species or distinct separate species.

This determination must evolve from being merely an opinion of the Department of Environment that the specimens listed in the draft Conservation Plan are all *A. caymanensis*. Even a relatively unscientific observation of *A. 'downy-form'* and a comparison to known specimens of *A. caymanensis* reveals critical differences in type or morphology- sufficient in our view to warrant a separate and new species determination. **We thus request Cabinet to require that the Department of Environment conducts further and more comprehensive research into the type and morphology of both these species in order to determine them finally to be individual and separate species or otherwise, and to draft Conservation Plans for both of them if warranted.**

In conclusion, whilst we laud the Department's efforts in securing the survival and viability of both *A. caymanensis* and *A. 'downy-form'* species, until this further research has been carried out and the results published, we are reluctant to regard the several specimens of *A. 'downy-form'* that are on our land as *A. caymanensis* and therefore do not accept that they be identified as such and proposed for protection in terms of the Conservation Plan for *Aegiphila caymanensis* as published by the Department of Environment.







A. 'downy-form'



A. caymanensis

seed pouch



TYPE!
Aegiphila caymanensis Moldenke

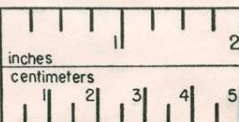
Identified by H. N. Moldenke and cited
by him in his Monograph of the Genus

Winter, 1930-1931

Herbário da Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana
HITCHCOCK s.n. HOLOTIPO
Aegiphila caymanensis Moldenke
(G. Feddes Report. 33: 118, 1933)
Det. F. FRANÇA 2003, Rev. *Aegiphila*.

CHICAGO NATURAL
HISTORY MUSEUM

NEGATIVE NO.
52993



TYPE

228141
HERBARIUM
FIELD COLUMBIAN
MUSEUM

PLANTS OF GRAND CAYMAN.
HERBARIUM OF A. S. HITCHCOCK.

Aegiphila caymanensis
ANNEXURE B

Coll. A. S. Hitchcock.





Aegiphila 'downy-form'

Bothwell, John

From: ENV Conservation Council
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Aegiphila caymanensis - my comments/feedback public

Hi [REDACTED]

Yes, that is correct. Though there is no policy (nor pre-determined limit) as to who would, or would not, have their permit application accepted.

I am not prejudging any possible scenarios but, hypothetically, we might not wish anyone without some track record of plant propagation attempting to start on *Aegiphila caymanensis*. Whereas, hypothetically, someone who can show successful home propagation of trees may be permitted, provided that their activities fed in to some broader programme, e.g., planned cross-propagation of the extant individuals of the species to promote genetic diversity and then distribution of the saplings to other home horticulturists on Grand Cayman with land potentially suitable for a small mixed-genetics grove of the species. Hypothetically someone applying to propagate them solely for overseas sale might have a hard time justifying their application regardless of their experience or professional qualifications and status. The Permitting process is just a way to manage (propagation of) the species to get the greatest conservation benefit at the lowest risk to the individuals and the species as a whole. How that might work in practice has not been predetermined.

I hope the above helps and if you have any other questions please do not hesitate to ask us.

Warm Regards,
John Bothwell

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:57 PM
To: ENV Conservation Council
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Aegiphila caymanensis - my comments/feedback public

Hi

Thanks for this reply appreciated.

So when you say the process is through permitting that means only persons granted permits - a restricted group of people - can propagate/cultivate?

Thanks

Regards

Zoe Foster

On January 19, 2021 at 2:23 PM ENV Conservation Council <ConservationCouncil@gov.ky> wrote:

Ms Foster,

Thank you for your submission as part of this consultation process. They will be presented to the National Conservation Council for their consideration.

To your questions, *Aegiphila caymanensis* is an exceedingly rare species to the point of extinction, therefore the genetics need to be very precisely managed. There are currently less than 25 suspected specimens at two known locations. So any cultivation, propagation, etc., needs to be managed carefully. The process for this management is through Permitting any such activities whether for conservation or other purposes, under the National Conservation Law. This is a very common management technique used with endangered species around the world.

Respectfully,

John Bothwell – Secretary, National Conservation Council



Manager, Legislation Implementation & Coordination Unit

Department of Environment, Cayman Islands

Email: ConservationCouncil@gov.ky

Web: www.Conservation.ky

Consider the environment before printing!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:20 PM
To: ENV Conservation Council <ConservationCouncil@gov.ky>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aegiphila caymanensis - my comments/feedback public
Importance: High

Dear Sirs/Madam

I read with interest the Public Notice regarding the critically endangered native "**Aegiphila caymanensis**" I am so happy that much is being done to recognize and protect and look after this precious Cayman native.

I write to express concern and confusion at one element a proposed "ban .. re possession; purchase; sale or exchange"... why would any conservation or protection efforts for such a unique and special rare native not be permitted. Why would one want to covet/restrict/put this item in a museum somewhere? Surely nature itself hopes for its treasures to be propagated; shared; even purchased or sold to those who care? What type of conservation method is this?

We have lost natives to invasives (which are rampant on many tracts of Cayman land); to hurricanes; draught and developer neglect/ignorance and development on island.

Please can you explain the reasoning and intent behind this part of the proposal? It does not seem right to curtail; prevent the spread and use and planting of this gem of a plant? Those who care would become caretakers of this plant and ensure its survival long term.

Why is this part of the "plan" important as part of a conservation effort?

Surely - Nature spreads plants ... through storms; weather; floods; iguanas; birds; animals and yes even humans?

I look forward to some clarity and find this aspect of this matter worrisome.

I am a native plant admirer and have my own thriving native garden of which I am so proud. For example I would be happy to partake in saving this item and planting one in my garden or my family members garden to help preserve it from extinction. What could possibly be the harm in this? Also those who may sell these seeds, surely they have worked hard and at some expense to share from these efforts and deserve any reward to encourage them to propagate our beautiful Cayman Natives.

Many thanks for your assistance with my aforementioned question/s. Look forward to a confirm of receipt.

Thanks also for all your hard work.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Grand Cayman

[REDACTED]



Draft Conservation Plan for AEGIPHILA CAYMANENSIS - Grand Cayman

National Conservation Council, November 2020: online form for public consultation

The purpose of this survey is to provide the National Conservation Council and the Cabinet of the Cayman Islands Government with a measure of public opinion regarding this draft Species Conservation Plan. We ask for your name and email address at the end of this survey to help us verify that each response is from a different person. Your email address won't be shared or published.

You can read the draft *Aegiphila caymanensis* conservation plan at <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/>.

The period for comment will end on 15th January 2021. Your feedback and comments will be included in the final report on consultation regarding this proposal.

*** 1. Have you read this plan?** (to read it now, see <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/>)

☐ Yes

☐ No

*** 2. How familiar are you with this plant?**

☐ I've never seen it

☐ I've seen it once or twice

☐ I know it quite well

☐ I'm very familiar with it

*** 3. What is your overall feeling about this plan?**

- ☐ I support it
- ☐ I am neutral, unsure or ambivalent about it
- ☐ I do not support it

4. Please let us know in your own words any thoughts, opinions or suggestions you may have about this plan.

*** 5. Generally speaking, how do you feel about the idea of protecting endangered species like this that are unique to the Cayman Islands?**

- ☐ I support this
- ☐ I am neutral, unsure or ambivalent about this
- ☐ I do not support this

*** 6. I am commenting as:**

- ☐ An individual member of the Cayman Islands public
- ☐ A business or company operating in the Cayman Islands
- ☐ A landowner near where this species grows
- ☐ A group, club or association of persons in the Cayman Islands
- ☐ A person or entity based outside of the Cayman Islands
- ☐ Other (please specify)

*** 7. Are you a registered voter in the Cayman Islands? (your opinion matters regardless of your answer to this question)**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

*** 8. Where do you live?**

- ☐ Cayman Brac
- ☐ Little Cayman
- ☐ Grand Cayman
- ☐ Outside of the Cayman Islands

*** 9. Your name, or the name of the organisation for which you are commenting:** (will appear in report)*** 10. Your e-mail address:** (will not be shared or published)

Done

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#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 13, 2020 5:41:53 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 13, 2020 5:43:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:54
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: National Conservation Council, November 2020: online form for public consultation

Q1 Yes

Have you read this plan? (to read it now,
see <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/>)

Q2 I've never seen it

How familiar are you with this plant?

Q3 I support it

What is your overall feeling about this plan?

Q4
Please let us know in your own words any thoughts, opinions or suggestions you may have about this plan.
My strong feeling is we should be protecting anything naturally endemic to the islands to help preserve Caymanian history.

Q5 I support this

Generally speaking, how do you feel about the idea
of protecting endangered species like this that are unique
to the Cayman Islands?

Q6 An individual member of the Cayman Islands public

I am commenting as:

Q7 No

Are you a registered voter in the Cayman Islands? (your
opinion matters regardless of your answer to this question)

Q8 Grand Cayman

Where do you live?

Q9

Your name, or the name of the organisation for which you are commenting: (will appear in report)

[REDACTED]

Q10

Your e-mail address: (will not be shared or published)

[REDACTED]

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 12:20:42 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 12:23:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:08
IP Address: [REDACTED]

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Q1 **Yes**

Have you read this plan? (to read it now, see <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/>)

Q2 **I've never seen it**

How familiar are you with this plant?

Q3 **I support it**

What is your overall feeling about this plan?

Q4
Please let us know in your own words any thoughts, opinions or suggestions you may have about this plan.

As this is an endemic species to the Cayman Islands, a local and centralized approach to managing and conserving it is most critical.

Q5 **I support this**

Generally speaking, how do you feel about the idea of protecting endangered species like this that are unique to the Cayman Islands?

Q6 **An individual member of the Cayman Islands public**

I am commenting as:

Q7 **No**

Are you a registered voter in the Cayman Islands? (your opinion matters regardless of your answer to this question)

Q8 **Grand Cayman**

Where do you live?

Q9

Your name, or the name of the organisation for which you are commenting: (will appear in report)

[REDACTED]

Q10

Your e-mail address: (will not be shared or published)

[REDACTED]

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 12:46:17 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 1:17:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:24
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: National Conservation Council, November 2020: online form for public consultation

Q1 Yes

Have you read this plan? (to read it now,
see <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/>)

Q2 I'm very familiar with it

How familiar are you with this plant?

Q3 I am neutral, unsure or ambivalent about it

What is your overall feeling about this plan?

Q4
Please let us know in your own words any thoughts, opinions or suggestions you may have about this plan.

Conservation by propagation
Why does #6 only has 1 choice?

Q5 I support this

Generally speaking, how do you feel about the idea
of protecting endangered species like this that are unique
to the Cayman Islands?

Q6 A landowner near where this species grows

I am commenting as:

Q7 Yes

Are you a registered voter in the Cayman Islands? (your
opinion matters regardless of your answer to this question)

Q8

Grand Cayman

Where do you live?

Q9

Your name, or the name of the organisation for which you are commenting: (will appear in report)

[REDACTED]

Q10

Your e-mail address: (will not be shared or published)

[REDACTED]

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 20, 2020 7:39:38 AM
Last Modified: Friday, November 20, 2020 7:57:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:45
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: National Conservation Council, November 2020: online form for public consultation

Q1 Yes

Have you read this plan? (to read it now, see <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/>)

Q2 I've seen it once or twice

How familiar are you with this plant?

Q3 I support it

What is your overall feeling about this plan?

Q4 Respondent skipped this question

Please let us know in your own words any thoughts, opinions or suggestions you may have about this plan.

Q5 I support this

Generally speaking, how do you feel about the idea of protecting endangered species like this that are unique to the Cayman Islands?

Q6 An individual member of the Cayman Islands public

I am commenting as:

Q7 Yes

Are you a registered voter in the Cayman Islands? (your opinion matters regardless of your answer to this question)

Q8 Grand Cayman

Where do you live?

Q9

Your name, or the name of the organisation for which you are commenting: (will appear in report)

[REDACTED]

Q10

Your e-mail address: (will not be shared or published)

[REDACTED]

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 23, 2020 5:24:35 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 23, 2020 6:48:24 AM
Time Spent: 01:23:48
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: National Conservation Council, November 2020: online form for public consultation

Q1 **Yes**

Have you read this plan? (to read it now, see <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/>)

Q2 **I'm very familiar with it**

How familiar are you with this plant?

Q3 **I support it**

What is your overall feeling about this plan?

Q4
Please let us know in your own words any thoughts, opinions or suggestions you may have about this plan.
This conservation plan is essential for the survival of this critically endangered plant species.

Q5 **I support this**

Generally speaking, how do you feel about the idea of protecting endangered species like this that are unique to the Cayman Islands?

Q6 **A person or entity based outside of the Cayman Islands**

I am commenting as:

Q7 **No**

Are you a registered voter in the Cayman Islands? (your opinion matters regardless of your answer to this question)

Q8 **Outside of the Cayman Islands**

Where do you live?

Q9

Your name, or the name of the organisation for which you are commenting: (will appear in report)

[REDACTED]

Q10

Your e-mail address: (will not be shared or published)

[REDACTED]

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 15, 2021 7:41:58 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 15, 2021 7:43:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:03
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: National Conservation Council, November 2020: online form for public consultation

Q1 Yes

Have you read this plan? (to read it now, see <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/>)

Q2 I've never seen it

How familiar are you with this plant?

Q3 I support it

What is your overall feeling about this plan?

Q4 Respondent skipped this question

Please let us know in your own words any thoughts, opinions or suggestions you may have about this plan.

Q5 I support this

Generally speaking, how do you feel about the idea of protecting endangered species like this that are unique to the Cayman Islands?

Q6 An individual member of the Cayman Islands public

I am commenting as:

Q7 Yes

Are you a registered voter in the Cayman Islands? (your opinion matters regardless of your answer to this question)

Q8 Grand Cayman

Where do you live?

Q9

Your name, or the name of the organisation for which you are commenting: (will appear in report)

[REDACTED]

Q10

Your e-mail address: (will not be shared or published)

[REDACTED]

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 15, 2021 8:10:46 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 15, 2021 8:12:13 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:27
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: National Conservation Council, November 2020: online form for public consultation

Q1 Yes

Have you read this plan? (to read it now, see <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/>)

Q2 I've seen it once or twice

How familiar are you with this plant?

Q3 I support it

What is your overall feeling about this plan?

Q4 Respondent skipped this question

Please let us know in your own words any thoughts, opinions or suggestions you may have about this plan.

Q5 I support this

Generally speaking, how do you feel about the idea of protecting endangered species like this that are unique to the Cayman Islands?

Q6 An individual member of the Cayman Islands public

I am commenting as:

Q7 Yes

Are you a registered voter in the Cayman Islands? (your opinion matters regardless of your answer to this question)

Q8 Grand Cayman

Where do you live?

Q9

Your name, or the name of the organisation for which you are commenting: (will appear in report)

[REDACTED]

Q10

Your e-mail address: (will not be shared or published)

[REDACTED]

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 15, 2021 8:08:35 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 15, 2021 8:22:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:28
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: National Conservation Council, November 2020: online form for public consultation

Q1 **Yes**

Have you read this plan? (to read it now, see <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/>)

Q2 **I've never seen it**

How familiar are you with this plant?

Q3 **I support it**

What is your overall feeling about this plan?

Q4
Please let us know in your own words any thoughts, opinions or suggestions you may have about this plan.

More photos of this plant, showing its habit as well as close-ups of individual parts would be most helpful to insuring better identification of it.

Q5 **I support this**

Generally speaking, how do you feel about the idea of protecting endangered species like this that are unique to the Cayman Islands?

Q6 **An individual member of the Cayman Islands public**

I am commenting as:

Q7 **Yes**

Are you a registered voter in the Cayman Islands? (your opinion matters regardless of your answer to this question)

Q8

Grand Cayman

Where do you live?

Q9

Your name, or the name of the organisation for which you are commenting: (will appear in report)

[REDACTED]

Q10

Your e-mail address: (will not be shared or published)

[REDACTED]

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, April 04, 2021 10:06:03 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, April 04, 2021 10:07:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:31
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: National Conservation Council, November 2020: online form for public consultation

Q1 Yes

Have you read this plan? (to read it now,
see <https://conservation.ky/protected-species-proposals/>)

Q2 I've never seen it

How familiar are you with this plant?

Q3 I support it

What is your overall feeling about this plan?

Q4 Respondent skipped this question

Please let us know in your own words any thoughts,
opinions or suggestions you may have about this plan.

Q5 I support this

Generally speaking, how do you feel about the idea
of protecting endangered species like this that are unique
to the Cayman Islands?

Q6 An individual member of the Cayman Islands public

I am commenting as:

Q7 Yes

Are you a registered voter in the Cayman Islands? (your
opinion matters regardless of your answer to this question)

Q8 Cayman Brac

Where do you live?

Q9

Your name, or the name of the organisation for which you are commenting: (will appear in report)

[REDACTED]

Q10

Your e-mail address: (will not be shared or published)

[REDACTED]
