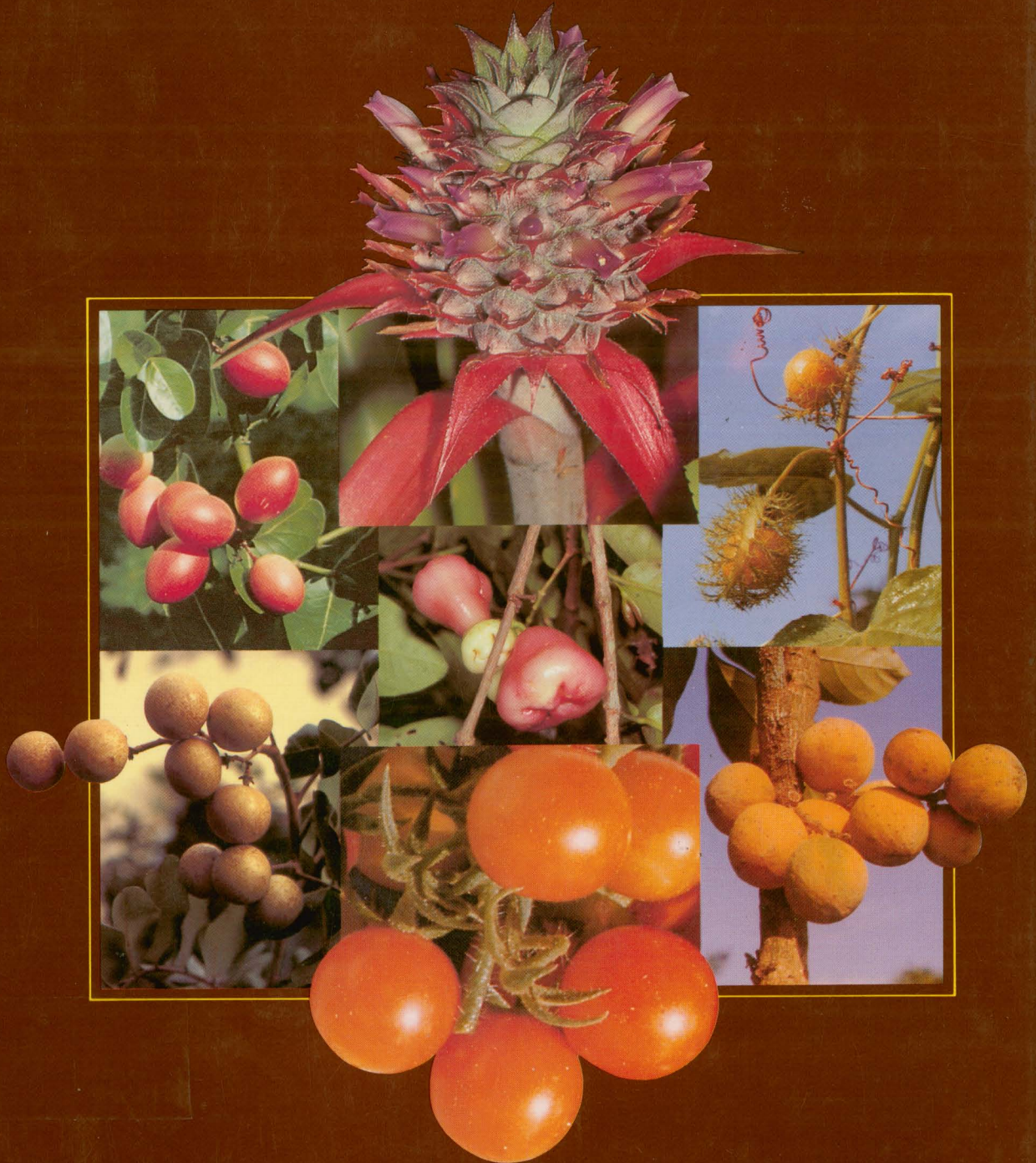


Malaysian Fruits in Colour

H. F. Chin & H. S. Yong



Malaysian Fruits in Colour

by

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Preface

Malaysian fruits in colour is the second of a series of books on the rich flora and fauna of Malaysia. Edible fruits in this country number over a hundred known species. And many more species have yet to be discovered in the jungles. The present collection represents a rich pool of genetic resources, if exploited and strengthened by a strong selection and breeding programme, will no doubt further increase the number of variety of fruits to be found in the local market.

Fruits like papaya, banana and pineapple are available in the market all the year round as there is no fixed season for their production. Unlike the papaya a number of our local fruits appear only twice a year; these are the seasonal fruits like the Durian, Rambutan, Duku, Langsat and many others. Although we have no definite seasons like winter, spring, summer and autumn, we do experience definite hot dry seasons and the wet monsoons. Because different fruits are available at different time of the year, the diversity of local fruits is not fully appreciated or felt by the local populace. In this book an attempt is made to provide information on as many of the fruits grown in this country.

Unlike other Malaysian crops such as padi, oil palm and rubber, fruits are not usually grown in a large commercial scale except the coconut, pineapple and banana. It's only in the last decade that

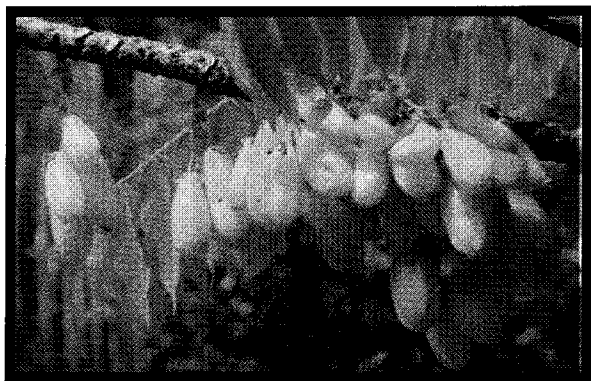
there is commercial interest in fruit cultivation. As an estate crop, these are limited to a few such as durian, rambutan and mangoes. Fruit cultivation is, however, a smallholder's concern, each household growing one or two trees of each species. These are mainly grown for home consumption and excess are sold in the market. With the implementation of the Crop Diversification and Green Book Plan both farmers and home gardeners are encouraged to grow their own fruits. The latest project is the launching of a 3,000 acre orchard in Kedah by FIMA.

It is hoped that this book will be useful to horticulture students, home gardeners, farmers, nurserymen and tourists. Brief descriptions are given on a wide range of fruits, including the local and common names, botanical names and families they belong to. These are illustrated with colour pictures for easy identification which the ordinary black-and-white photos do not permit.

In addition to the description of the various species of fruits found locally, there are three chapters on planting and maintenance of plants, seasonality of fruits and fruit arrangement. The chapter on fruit arrangement illustrates some of the other uses of fruits.

The authors H.F. Chin and H.S. Yong would like to thank the vice chancellors of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia Prof. Tan Sri Mohd. Rashdan bin Hj. Baba and the Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaya Royal Professor Ungku Aziz for their permission to publish this book.

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