

Mengenal the winged bean (*Psophocarpus scandens* (Endl.) Verdc. / Rizmoon N. Zulkarnaen

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Abstrak

Psophocarpus scandens (Endl.) Verdc. is a member of a small genus of leguminous plants that includes the vegetable crop, winged bean. Some plants of *P. scandens*, an endemic of tropical Africa, were recently found growing uncultivated in site XIX.P within Bogor Botanic Gardens. It is possible these plants are descendants from experiments carried out in the Gardens in the 1970s, or even possible from original plants recorded in Bogor as early as 1842. This plant has trifoliate leaves and attractive blue butterfly-like flowers, smaller in size than the domesticated winged bean. Its small winged pods are a popular bush food in Africa, but unlike the domesticated winged bean, *P. scandens* has the potential to be weedy. At times, it has been used as a leguminous cover crop in the plantation industry.