

ASEAN's Latest Scientific Breakthroughs: From Deep-Sea Isopods to Agroecology

Scientific Discoveries · Answer Key · 3 Questions

1. In December 2024, a new species of 'lipstick vine' was discovered in the Philippine rainforest. What is the scientific name given to this Critically Endangered plant species, noted for its distinct purple mottling similar to a European foxglove?

- A) *Aeschynanthus luzonensis*
- B) *Aeschynanthus philippinensis*
- C) *Aeschynanthus pentatrichomatus***
- D) *Aeschynanthus purpurascens*

2. Which recently discovered deep-sea crustacean, named after a famous fictional character for its resemblance, was identified off the coast of Vietnam in January 2025 and recognized as one of the WoRMS Top Ten Marine Species for 2025?

- A) *Bathynomus giganteus*
- B) *Bathynomus vietnamensis*
- C) *Bathynomus jamesi*
- D) *Bathynomus vaderi***

3. In a September 2025 symposium, Singaporean scientists highlighted the increasing threat of tick-borne diseases in Southeast Asia. Which potentially fatal tick-borne disease, previously identified in regions like North Asia, was reported for the first time in humans across the border in Malaysia?

- A) Lyme disease
- B) Rocky Mountain spotted fever
- C) Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (SFTS)**
- D) Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever