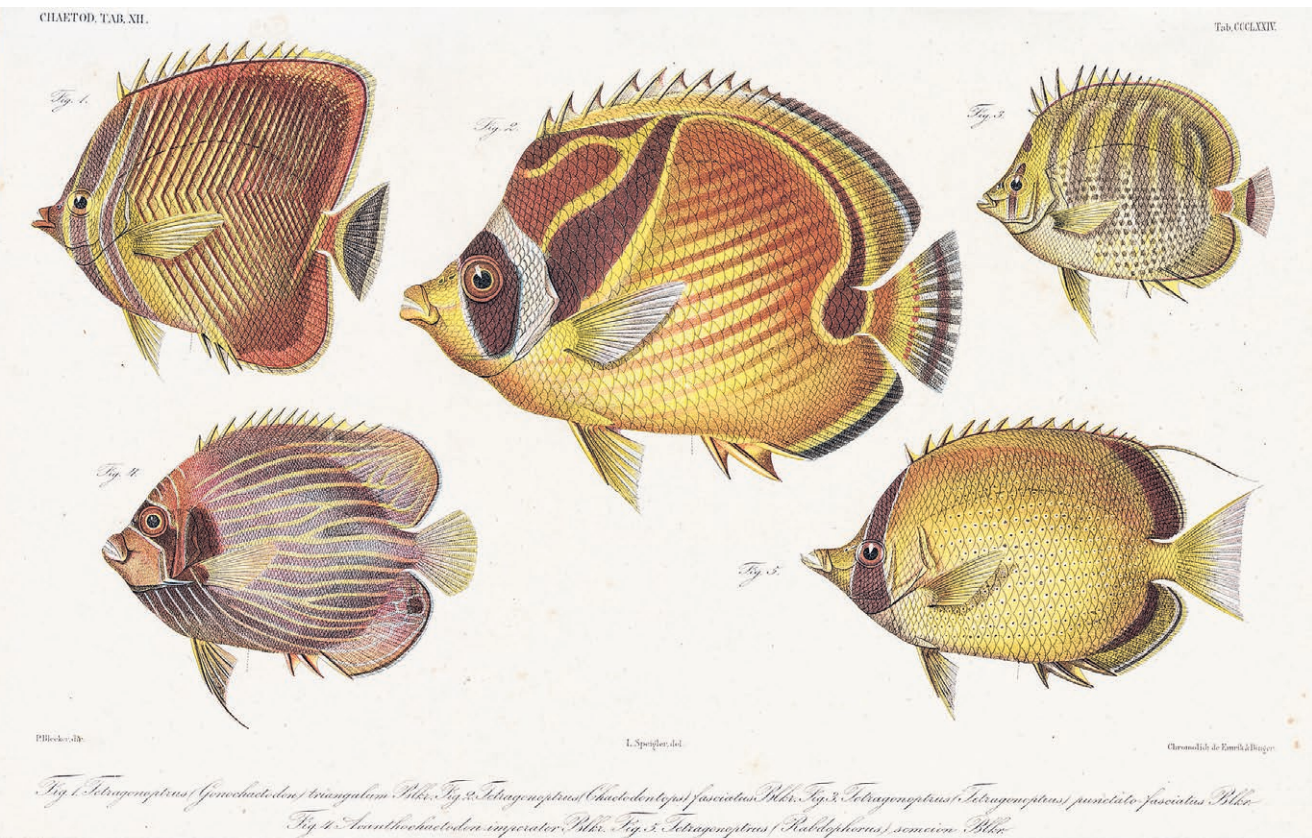


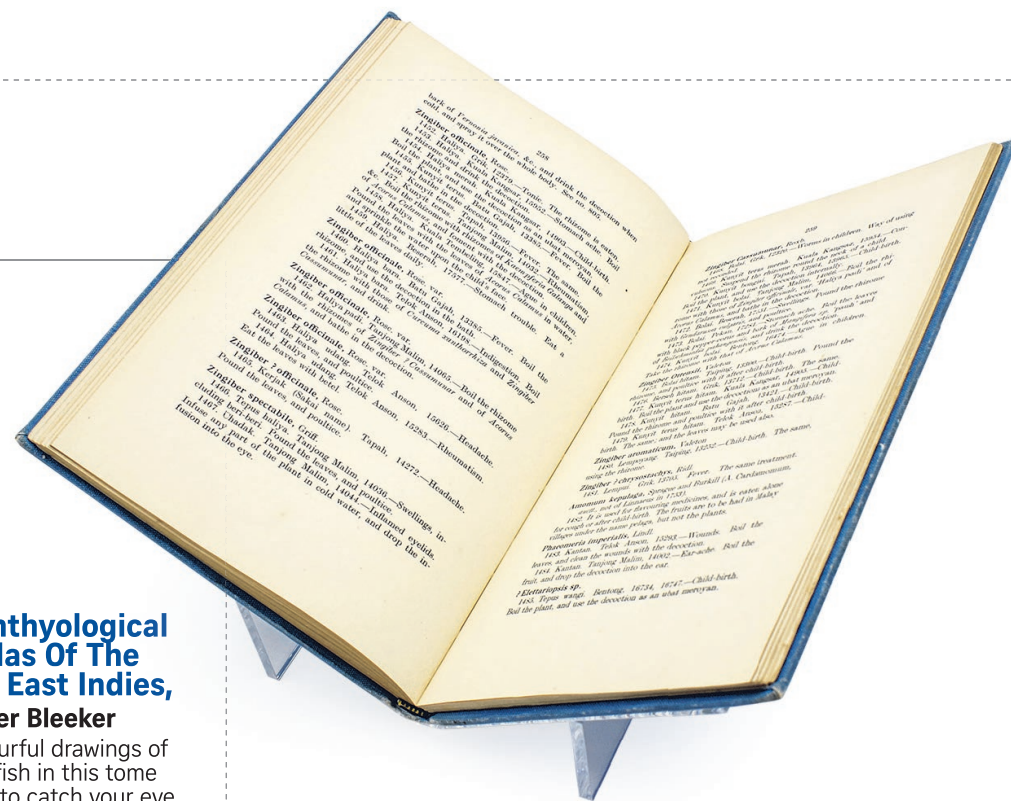
What to look out for at the exhibition

Human x Nature: Environmental Histories Of Singapore puts together gems from Singapore's collection to offer a narrative ranging from the scientific expeditions of Europeans to ongoing efforts by locals to preserve the island's natural habitat. The stories and lessons from the texts and sketches spanning four centuries can now be rediscovered at the National Library until Sept 26.



1 Ichthyological Atlas Of The Dutch East Indies, by Pieter Bleeker

The colourful drawings of tropical fish in this tome are sure to catch your eye. Containing over 1,500 drawings of fish from the waters of the Malay Archipelago, the nine-volume series was published by the colonial government of the Netherlands in the 1860s and 1870s. It is still one of the largest compilations on fish in the region and is now in the collection of the National Library.



2 Malay Village Medicine, by I.H. Burkill and Mohamed Haniff

A rare work from the colonial era that credits a Malay naturalist as an author. Published in 1930, it provides information on how medicinal plants were used by bomohs (local medical practitioners) and bidans (midwives) to treat common ailments. The Malay names of the plants were set alongside their Latin scientific names in the publication, lending them some equivalency, even though such treatment methods were seen as superstitious and backward by Europeans.

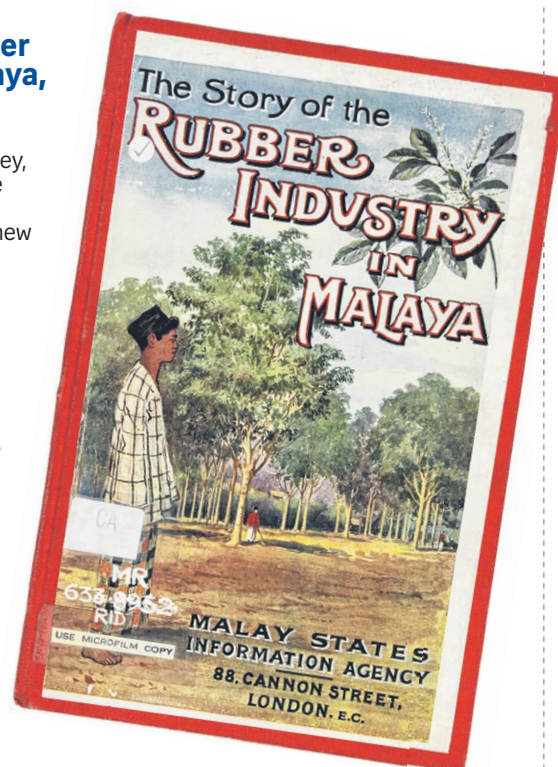


3 Specimen of juvenile tapir from Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum

William Farquhar, the first British Resident of Singapore, kept a young tapir in his home in Melaka to study it, feeding it with bread and cakes. He was seeking to be among the first to provide an account of a new species of tapir in the region in the 1820s. The animal died after six months, but not before Farquhar noted the change of colour in the juvenile tapir's coat between four and seven months. On show at the exhibition are the specimen of a juvenile tapir as well as a book co-authored by Farquhar.

4 The Story Of The Rubber Industry In Malaya, by Sir Henry Nicholas Ridley

Sir Henry Nicholas Ridley, the first director of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, pioneered a new way of tapping rubber that shifted the global rubber trade from its centre in Brazil to South-east Asia. His method protected the rubber tree from damage and let it produce latex for more than 20 years. By persuading locals to plant rubber commercially in the early 20th century, he was instrumental in Malaya accounting for more than 50 per cent of the global rubber trade within a short time.



5 Vintage poster by the former Parks and Recreation Department of Singapore

The "Know Your Roadside Trees" poster from 1979 alerted locals to \$4,000 in cash vouchers to be won if they brushed up on their knowledge of local flora. It was a period of reforestation and official encouragement to get people to plant trees, as part of Singapore's then efforts to create a garden city. These went some way to reversing the adverse environmental impact of colonialism, which had destroyed most of Singapore's primary forests for commercial agriculture.