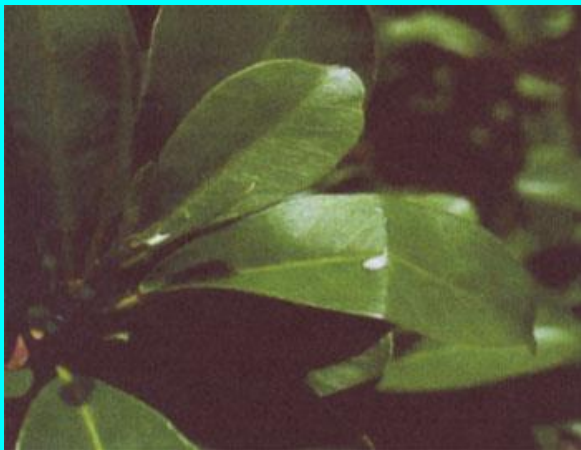


BLIND-YOUR-EYE MANGROVE MILKY MANGROVE

(*Excoecaria agallocha*)



The common name for this species refers to the damaging effect that its white milky sap can have on the human eye. This tree can grow to about 14 metres tall but is usually found no more than 6 or 7 m high.

Roots

No above ground roots, but can sometimes have spreading surface roots.

Leaves

Leaves are about 6 to 10 cm long and are arranged alternately up the stem. They have slightly toothed edges and are pointed at the ends. The leaves exude white sap when broken. In years of severe drought this species may lose all its leaves.

Flowers

November – February

Flowers arise at the point where the leaves are attached to the stem. Separate male and female flowers occur on the same tree. Only female flowers are shown on the illustration. Male flowers are longer with a furry appearance.

Fruit

January to March

Bark

Bark is grey, smooth, and has long longitudinal patterns of corky pustules.

Similar species

None

Location

This tree grows at the landward edge of the mangrove forest and can be found at or just above the high water mark. It prefers sandy areas, with freshwater input for much of the time.