

MANGROVE APPLE

(*Sonneratia species*)



A small bushy tree mostly growing to 4-5m high but occasionally reaching 20 metres. Three species occur in Queensland. They are difficult to tell apart except when there are flowers on the tree.

Roots

Thick, tall peg type, robust above-ground roots. Some are around a metre high and branched at the apex. They have the appearance of a small dead tree.

Leaves

Leaves are opposite, roughly elliptical and fleshy but brittle. The tips of the leaves are slightly turned under.

Flowers

October – December

Sonneratia alba has white flowers while *Sonneratia caseolaris* has red flowers. Flowers only open for one night.

Fruit

November - March

The fruit are large (4cm wide) green, leathery berries with a star shaped base.

Bark

Grey to brown bark that is slightly cracked

Similar species

None.

Location

These trees can tolerate a wide salinity range. *Sonneratia alba* generally is found in the lower in the intertidal zone than *Sonneratia caseolaris*, and is associated with the Grey and Red Mangroves. *Sonneratia alba* tends to prefer soft sand and mud and seems to be intolerant of lengthy periods of freshwater inundation.

