

MYRTLE MANGROVE

(*Osbornia octodonta*)



This large tree belongs to the same family as the eucalypts with the crushed leaves having the same distinctive smell. This smell is a great way of identifying the species as it is the only mangrove having this characteristic. The tree can grow up to 5 metres tall.

Roots

No above ground roots although it can often have roots spreading on the soil surface.

Leaves

Leaves are 3cm long and are the smallest of all the mangroves. They are opposite, obovate and sometimes finely toothed at the leaf apex. There is often a red tinge to the base of the leaves.

Flowers

December – February

Small white flowers (about 1 cm)

Fruit

February – March

The fruit are larger than the flowers and are similar in shape.

Bark

Bark is stringy, fibrous and dark in colour.

Similar species

This tree can be mistaken for the Black Mangrove. The leaves of the Black Mangrove do not have the same distinctive smell.

Location

Found on the landward edge of tidal mangroves where there is little fresh water available..

