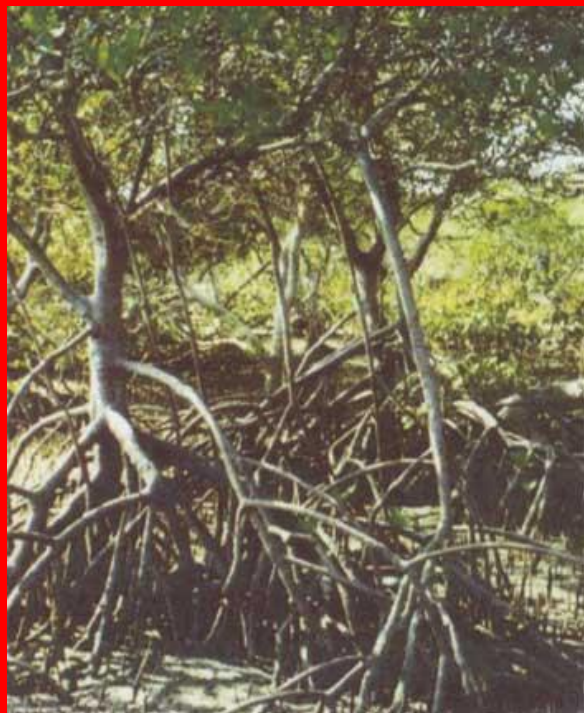


RED MANGROVE

(*Rhizophora stylosa*)



This is probably the best known mangrove plant because of its distinctive root system and widespread distribution. It can grow up to 15 metres in height but is most often seen between 3-8 metres.

Roots

The *Rhizophora stylosa* is the most spectacular of all the mangroves, with their robust prop roots. The long looping prop roots and the numerous aerial roots provide a large area over which lenticels (minute air holes) are scattered and through which gas exchange takes place.

Leaves

Leaves are opposite, thick and somewhat brittle, with a small projecting point at the apex. They are about 10cm in length and have a green undersurface speckled with reddish brown glands. Leaves are arranged in clumps at the end of branches.

Flowers

February - April

Small creamish-white flowers are pollinated by wind or insects.

Fruit

All Year

The propagules are 1-2cm in diameter, 20-40cm long and tapered at one end.

Bark

Rough, brown to dark grey

Similar species

The Tall-stilted mangrove (*Rhizophora apiculata*) has more pointed leaves which lack the brown speckles. *Rhizophora mucronata* has larger leaves and a propagule about twice the length.

Location

Occurs in the intertidal zone, where its roots are submerged during high tides.