

# RIVER MANGROVE

(*Aegiceras corniculatum*)



This is one of the most common mangrove plants. It usually is a scrub up to 2m or less, sometimes may be a slender tree up to 4-5m. These plants grow together to form dense thickets along tidal creeks and rivers.

## Roots

No obvious above-ground roots.

## Leaves

The glossy green leaves are alternate, oval and about 7cm long. The leaves have a film of salt on them except after rain. Often there is a film of dark mould on the leaf surface; the fungus lives on the secretions from the surface of the leaves but it is not a parasite. There are glands on the leaves for secreting salt.

## Flowers

June - September

Thick clumps of white flowers which smell like rotten bananas.

## Fruit

December - March

The propagules are up to 5cm long, pencil thick, slightly curved and have a pointed tip. The end of the fruit that is attached to the tree has a spiral patterned cap. The fruits are green, ripening to red in the summer months.

## Bark

Smooth, grey bark

## Similar species

It is possible to confuse with the Black Mangrove. Leaves on the River mangrove do not have an indentation at the leaf tip and leaves on the Black Mangrove do not have salt glands.

## Location

Found on river banks over a wide range of salinities.