

Grey Mangrove

Avicennia marina



Adaptation to environment

- Leaves remove excess salt with special salt-secreting glands; salt crystals can be seen & even tasted
- Seeds germinate on plant & mature enough to establish quickly once released
- Fruit with 'life jacket' for flotation, sheds after several days & roots quickly to anchor seedling
- Spreading network of peg or snorkel roots protrude out of mud to absorb oxygen
- Roots exclude most salt from sea-water; accumulate & trap debris to build up habitat.

Where do I live?



Mangrove Shore

What eats me?

- Prawns, crabs, snails & other detritus feeders eat dropped decomposing leaves
- Lorikeets, honeyeaters, possums & gliders, bees & other insects eat nectar & pollen
- Aboriginal people ate bitter fruits after soaking & baking
- Shipworms (*Teredo* sp.) eat dead wood
- Birds use tree for nesting.

- Small tree to 15 m
- Leaves simple, silver-grey underneath, 8 – 12 cm
- Small, yellow flowers
- Many pneumatophores (breathing roots) poking out of surrounding mud
- Aboriginal people used wood for shields, rubbed inner bark on stingray & stonefish stings.