

RHIZOPHORACEAE

by

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Evergreen trees or shrubs. Leaves opposite or rarely alternate. Stipules interpetiolar, soon deciduous. Flowers solitary or in axillary, forked or cymose inflorescences, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic. Receptacle campanulate. Sepals persistent, free. Petals as many as the sepals, 4—8 (or rarely 3—16), free, inserted on the rim of the receptacle and alternating with the calyx lobes. Stamens twice as many as the petals, inserted on or at the base of the disc; filaments free, short; anthers introrse, usually 2-celled or sometimes divided into numerous pollensacs. Disc epi- or perigynous, often lobed. Ovary inferior or partly inferior, mostly 2-locular; style simple, filiform to cylindrical; stigmas small, capitate or lobed. Ovules 2 to many, anatropous, pendulous from the axis above the middle. Fruit leathery, crowned by the calyx at least when young, indehiscent or dehiscent septically, 1—5-locular with 1 seed per loculus. Seeds hanging, rather large, sometimes arillate. Embryo straight or rarely curved. Endosperm wanting.

About 70 species in 17 genera in the tropics of both hemispheres.

Rhizophora Linnaeus, Gen. Plant. ed. 1. 137. 1737; Spec. Plant. 443. 1753

Glabrous trees or shrubs, provided with proproots on stems and branches. Stipules elongate. Leaves entire, coriaceous. Inflorescence axillary, few- to many-flowered, with forked peduncle. Bracteoles 2, united at the base into a cup. Receptacle short, adnate to the base of the ovary. Sepals leathery. Petals 4, entire, villous inside, inserted at the base of the disk. Stamens 8—12, indistinctly diplostemonous; filaments very short or almost wanting; anthers basifixed, large, with numerous pollen sacs. Disk inconspicuously lobed. Ovary inferior to half-inferior, the upper portion produced into a fleshy cone; the basal portion bi-locular with 2 ovules per loculus; style cylindrical; stigma 2-lobed. Fruit indehiscent, pendulous, 1-locular and 1(—2)-seeded. Seeds without an aril. Embryo germinating in the fruit.

Pantropical genus of 3 species or perhaps more; growing on muddy seashores, estuaries, and riverbanks; often forming dense forests.

Rhizophora mangle L.

LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. 443. 1753; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 274. 1860; Duss, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 292. 1897; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 143. 1909; JOHNSTON, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 34(7): 242. 1909; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 437. 1910; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 303. 1913; Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 2: 82. 1914; BRITTON & MILLSAUGH, Bahama Fl. 308. 1920; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 474. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 6: 43. 1925; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 5: 301, fig. 117. 1926; WILLIAMS, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1: 323. 1931; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 3: 408, fig. 189. 1953; ARNOLDO, Zakflora 29, 45, fig. 19. 1954; Zakflora 184, fig. 19. 1964; GOODING *et al.*, Fl. Barbados 306. 1965; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 508. 1972.

Shrub or tree, up to 10 m tall. Leaves often crowded at the top of the branchlets; leaf-blade leathery, elliptic to obovate, obtuse at the apex, more or less narrowed at the base, shining above, up to 15 × 7.5 cm; petiole thick, 1–3 cm long. Stipules narrowly lanceolate, up to 6 cm long and 0.5 cm wide. Inflorescence in the axils of the upper leaves, forked, 2- to many-flowered, up to 10 cm long; pedicels 5–12 mm long. Flowers creamy or yellowish to yellowish-green. Bracteoles 2, ovate, acute, 2–10 × 2 mm, basically united and surrounding the flower. Sepals lanceolate, thick, concave, acute, glabrous, about 6 × 3 mm. Petals coriaceous, lanceolate and emarginate, about 5 × 1.5 mm, inside villous to lanuginose, the margin involute above the middle. Stamens 8; anthers sessile or on very short thick filaments. Ovary about 2 mm long; style 2–3 mm long; stigma lobes 2, slender, 1 mm long. Fruit 2–3 cm long, conical, usually 1-seeded, surrounded at the base by the persistent bracteoles. Radicle perforating the apex of the fruit while still on the tree and reaching often a length of 30 cm before the seedling is set free.

California, S. Florida, West Indies, Central America, Colombia, Venezuela, Guiana's, Brazil, Islands off the Venezuelan coast; west coast of W. Africa.

Along sheltered coasts, reefs and inland bays.

Vernacular names: manguel tan (Leeward Group).

ARUBA: Spaans Lagoen (Stoffers 1458, fr. Jan.; Kruyt 1, st. Dec.); seashore near Savaneta (Boldingh 6555, st. Jan.).

BONAIRE: Lac (Stoffers 933, fl. & fr. Dec.; 936, fl. & fr. Dec.); calcareous soil near Lac (Boldingh 7480, fr. Feb.); Lagoen (Arnoldo 519, fr. June).

CURAÇAO: Santa Barbara (Stoffers 399, fl. & fr. Oct.); Rif (Arnoldo 1992, fl. March; Suringar s.n., fr. Jan. [L]); Piscadera Baai (de Wilde 4, fl. & fr. May).

ST. MARTIN: along Simson Bay Lagoon near Simson Bay (Stoffers 2498, fl. & fr. March); without loc. (Boldingh 3027, fl. & fr.).