



Science Skills

Topic Key to the mangroves of Australia*

*Clifford & Jessup, 2006 | All illustrations courtesy of the Queensland Herbarium.

This key classifies mangroves to their genera mainly using their leaves. Follow the steps in the key, until the mangrove is named.

START

1	 Leaves alternate go to 2	 Leaves opposite go to 9
2	 Leaves compound go to 3	 Leaves simple go to 4
3	 Leaflets 1–2, asymmetrical at their base <i>Cynometra</i>	 Leaflets 1–7, symmetrical at their base <i>Xylocarpus</i>
4	Sap milky (WARNING – can damage eyes) <i>Excoecaria</i> #	Sap not milky go to 5
5	No stipules; lacks brownish- silver scales go to 6	Stipules, brownish-silver scales go to 8
6	Leaf scars circular (petiole attaches here) <i>Aegialitis</i>	Leaf scars not circular go to 7
7	 Broadest part of the leaf towards the tip <i>Lumnitzera</i> #	 Broadest part of the leaf about the middle <i>Aegiceras</i> #
8	 Leaf apex tapers, base rounded <i>Heritiera</i>	 Leaf apex rounded or notched, base tapers <i>Campostemon</i>
9	 Leaf margins toothed <i>Acanthus</i>	 Leaf margins not toothed go to 10
10	Pungent smell when leaf crushed <i>Osbornia</i>	No pungent smell when leaf crushed go to 11
11	Stipules go to 12	No stipules go to 13
12	Two salt glands on the base of the leaf stalk <i>Sonneratia</i>	No glands on base of leaf stalk <i>Avicennia</i> #
13	Stems with aerial stilt roots go to 14	Stems lack aerial stilt roots <i>Bruguiera</i> #
14	Stilt roots arch from stem <i>Rhizophora</i> #	Stilt (or buttress) roots grow close to or along the stem <i>Ceriops</i> #

- # shows mangroves found in all parts of Queensland, others are not found in Moreton Bay.
- Stipules:** Scale or leaf-like structure found at the base of the leaves. Protect the developing leaf, but leave ring-like scar on the branch as they drop.

