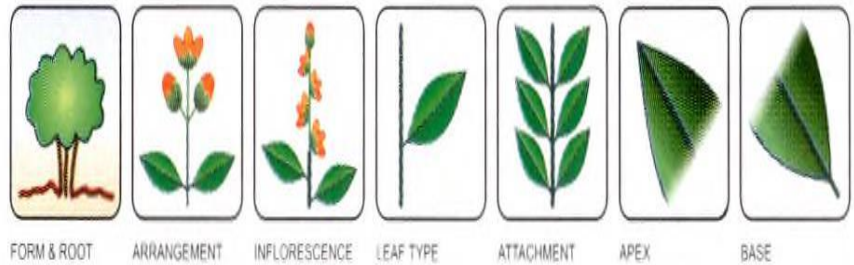
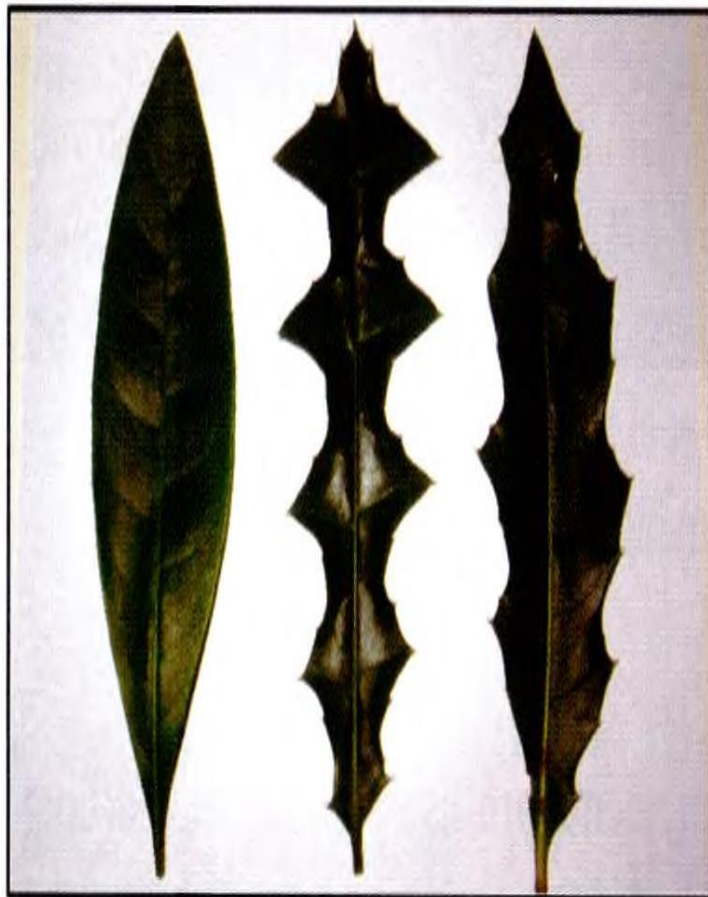


Family Acanthaceae

Acanthus spp.



Characteristic ground flora of mangroves, *Acanthus ebracteatus*, *A. ilicifolius* and *A. volubilis* may form extensive shrubs up to 1.5 m high which are initially erect but recline with age, for the latter two. The closely related species are found in soft muds of the upper to middle reaches of estuarine rivers and creeks, and firm muds of back mangroves. Undergrowth is dense in open sunlight along forest margins, less so in partial shade and on mud lobster mounds. Leaves are elliptic to oblong, simple and



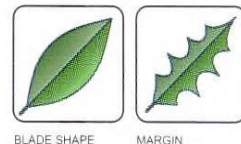
Typical leaf forms (from left): *Acanthus volubilis*, *A. ebracteatus* and *A. ilicifolius*

decussate, with short petiole and a pair of spines at each leaf insertion or node – armed species have spiny leaves and stems. Flowers form a terminal spike up to 20 cm long. Oton, Iloilo folks boil the dried flowers and drink the water to relieve cough. Fruit capsules are dark green and slightly flattened. Often found together, these 3 are sometimes treated as a single variable species indicating the need for more field work on *Acanthus* eco-genetics. Presently, they are distinguished by the appearance of the leaves, flowers and fruits.

Family Acanthaceae

Acanthus ebracteatus Vahl.

Local names: *lagiwliw*, *ragoyroy*



Leaves

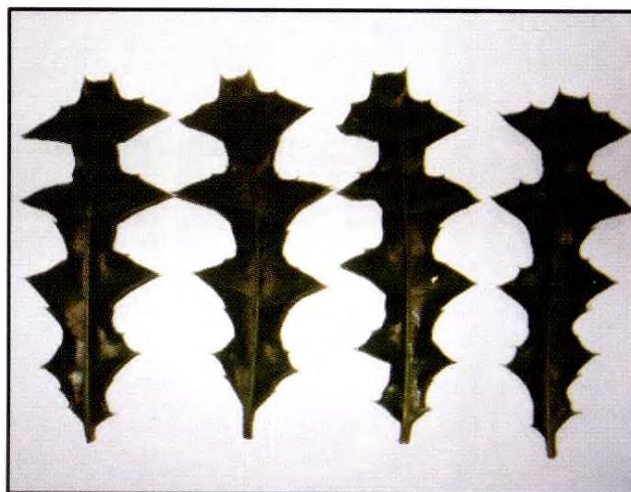
Arrangement: simple, opposite, decussate
Blade shape: elliptic to oblong
Margin: deeply lobed, serrate with sharp spines
Apex: acute
Base: acute
Upper surface: dark green, shiny
Undersurface: dark green
Size: 10-20 cm long, 4-6 cm wide
Others: stiff, salt crystals present

Flowers

Inflorescence: spike, terminal
Petals: white to brownish with age
Size: 2-3 cm long

Fruits

Shape: capsule, slightly flattened
Color: green to dark green
Texture: smooth
Size: 2-3 cm long, ~1 cm diameter



Family Acanthaceae

Acanthus ilicifolius L.

Local name: *lagiwliw, ragoyroy*



BLADE SHAPE



MARGIN

Leaves

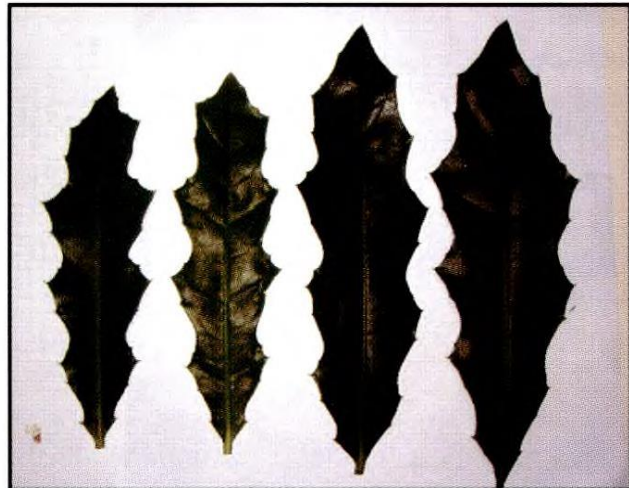
Arrangement: simple, opposite, decussate
Blade shape: elliptic to oblong
Margin: slightly lobed, serrate with sharp spines
Apex: acute
Base: acute
Upper surface: pale green with yellowish tinge, smooth
Undersurface: green
Size: 18-22 cm long, 6-7 cm wide
Others: stiff

Flowers

Inflorescence: spike, terminal
Petals: light blue with purple hue
Size: 2-3 cm long

Fruits

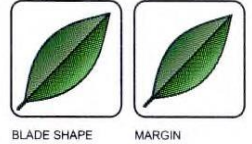
Shape: capsule, slightly flattened
Color: green
Texture: smooth
Size: 2.5-3 cm long, 1-1.5 cm diameter



Family Acanthaceae

Acanthus volubilis Wall.

Local name: *lagiwliw, ragoyroy*



Leaves

Arrangement: simple, opposite, decussate
Blade shape: elliptic to lanceolate
Margin: entire - smooth, rarely serrate
Apex: acute to acuminate
Base: acute
Upper surface: dark green, smooth
Undersurface: dark green
Size: 15-18 cm long, 4-6 cm wide
Others: younger (higher on stem) - wider, margin often smooth
older (lower on stem) - narrower, with small spines

Flowers

Inflorescence: spike, terminal
Petals: white to brownish with age
Size: ~2 cm long

Fruits

Shape: capsule, slightly flattened
Color: green to dark green
Texture: smooth
Size: ~2 cm long, ~1 cm diameter

