

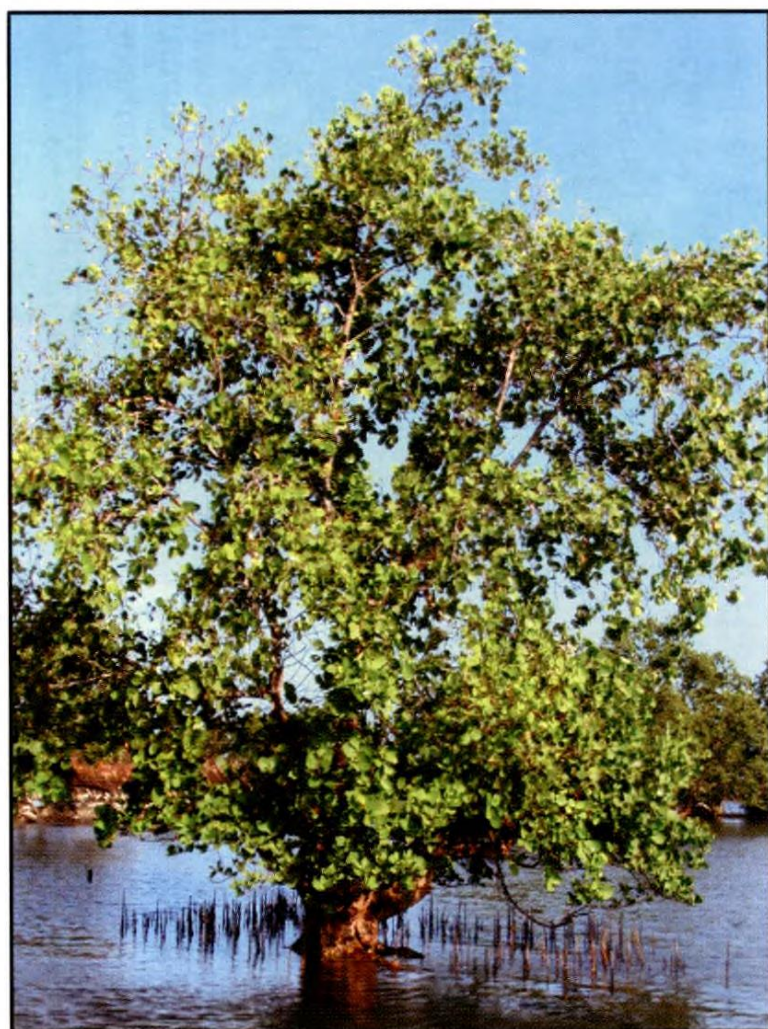
Family Sonneratiaceae

Sonneratia alba J. Smith

Local name: *pagatpat*



Pioneering species of medium to large trees that co-occur with *A. marina* in fringing mangroves, but are dominant in more coralline-sandy substrates. Leaves are obovate to rounded, but those of seedlings and lowermost branches ~1 m aboveground are more elongated (see opposite, bottom left photo). The short-lived white flowers open at dusk and drop at dawn – standing in a *Sonneratia alba* grove as numerous white filaments fall from the canopy with the early morning breeze is a magical experience. This species hosts colonies of fireflies – a northern Agusan settlement was called Masawa (now Masao), meaning bright, from the insects' sparkling lights that greeted seafarers on moonless nights. Likewise, the Spanish name of Siquijor Is. was Isla del Fuego, referring to the *pagatpat*-lined shore seemingly on fire. Past uses include housing construction materials, furnishing, and musical instruments. Due to salt content, woodwork required copper nails and screws.



General

Substrate: coralline-sandy, muddy
Tidal level: low
Found with: *A. marina*,
Rhizophora spp.

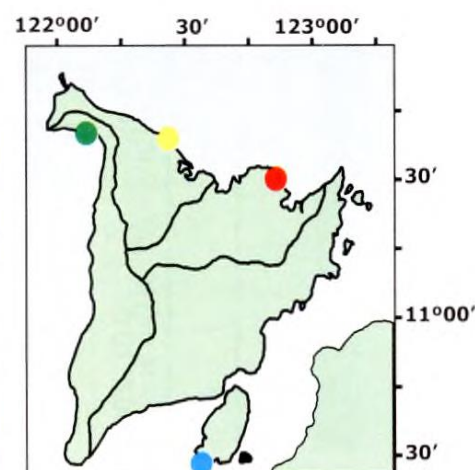
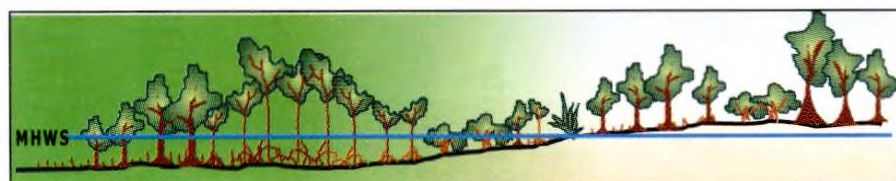
Form

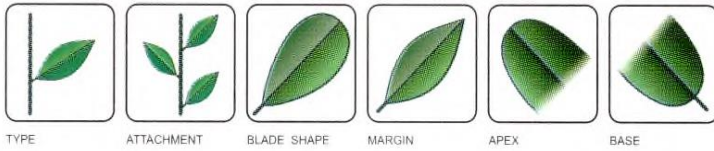
Shape: tree
Height: 5-20 m
DBH: 20-120 cm
Bark: rough, brown; fissured and flaky
Aerial roots: conical, corky pneumatophores

Sampling sites: ● Taklong Is., Guimaras
● Pan-ay, Capiz
● Kalibo, Aklan
● Pandan, Antique

FLOWERING J F M A M J J A S O N D

FRUITING J F M A M J J A S O N D





Leaves

Arrangement: simple, opposite
 Blade shape: obovate to rounded
 Margin: entire - smooth
 Apex: round
 Base: round
 Upper surface: smooth, dark green
 Undersurface: smooth, light green
 Size: 8 (6-12) cm long,
 7 (3-11) cm wide
 Others: leathery, succulent, brittle

Flowers

Inflorescence: cyme, terminal
 Petals: 4-6, white, thin
 Sepals: 4-7 fused, green
 Stamens: 300+ white filaments,
 3-5 cm long
 Size: 5-7 cm long,
 6-9 cm diameter
 Others: long 5-6 cm style, light green

Fruits

Shape: rounded
 Color: dark green
 Texture: smooth
 Size: 3-4 cm high,
 3-5 cm diameter
 Others: contain many V- and
 U-shaped seeds (see inset)



Family Sonneratiaceae

Sonneratia caseolaris (L.) Engl.

Local names: *pedada*, *kalong-kalong*



Prominent trees on the muddy substrate of low salinity upstream riverbanks; closely associated with *N. fruticans*. *Sonneratia caseolaris* can be distinguished from *S. alba* (with which it forms hybrids) by bigger pneumatophores that reach 1 m long when mature, bright red flowers, and elongated leaves with reddish petioles. Like *S. alba*, fireflies are also found on *S. caseolaris*. Heavy fruits cause the drooping branches to bend some more (see opposite, bottom left photo). Pneumatophores are used as floats for fishing nets and as corks (hence the vernacular term *duol*). Branches are used as firewood, the leaves as forage for goats and cows, and the bark yields tannin. The slightly acidic fruit is eaten raw or added to soups for souring, or made into vinegar. In the past, the sap was applied to the skin as cosmetic; other uses, e.g., firewood and forage, are similar to *S. alba*.



General

Substrate: muddy
Tidal level: high
Found with: *N. fruticans*

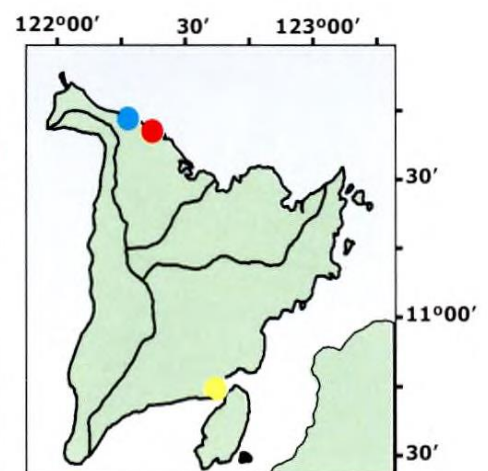
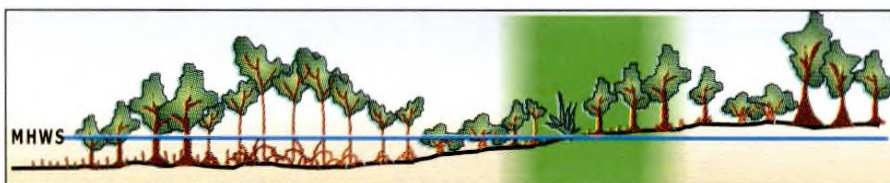
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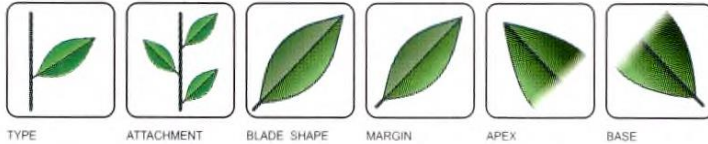
Shape: tree
Height: 6-20 m
DBH: 15-50 cm
Bark: rough, light to dark brown; cracked (old); lenticellate (young)
Aerial roots: pneumatophores long, slender and pointed like a spear

Sampling sites: ● Ibajay, Aklan
● Makato River, Aklan
● Jaro, Iloilo

FLOWERING J F M A M J J A S O N D

FRUITING J F M A M J J A S O N D





Leaves

Arrangement: simple, opposite
 Blade shape: elliptic
 Margin: entire - smooth
 Apex: acute
 Base: acute
 Upper surface: smooth, light green
 Undersurface: smooth, light green
 Size: 8 (6-12) cm long,
 4 (3-7) cm wide
 Others: thin, petiole base reddish,
 leaf twigs drooping

Flowers

Inflorescence: cyme, terminal
 Petals: 4-6, red, thin
 Sepals: 4-7 lobed, green
 Stamens: numerous (300+) filaments
 Size: 6-9 cm long,
 5-9 cm diameter
 Others: filaments with red base
 and white tips

Fruits

Shape: rounded
 Color: light green
 Texture: smooth, shiny
 Size: 2.8-4 cm high,
 4-8 cm diameter
 Others: sour-sweet smell when ripe,
 many seeds smaller than
S. alba (see inset)



Family Sonneratiaceae

Sonneratia ovata Backer

Local name: *pedada*



Shorter trees that grow on firm mud in almost freshwater habitats located considerable distances from the shore; closely associated with *N. fruticans*. Areas may have access to seawater through seepage during months of higher tide. The white flowers of *Sonneratia ovata* are similar to those of *S. alba*, but the filaments fall from the tree earlier in the morning before sunrise. Leaves are bigger and more rounded, and fruits are much larger than those of *S. alba* and *S. caseolaris*. Because their delicious sweet-sour taste is much appreciated by children and local folk, fruits are plucked from trees as soon as they mature, as in Pan-ay, Capiz (see opposite page, bottom left photo). Other differentiating characters are listed in Table 7.



General

Substrate: muddy
Tidal level: high
Found with: *N. fruticans*

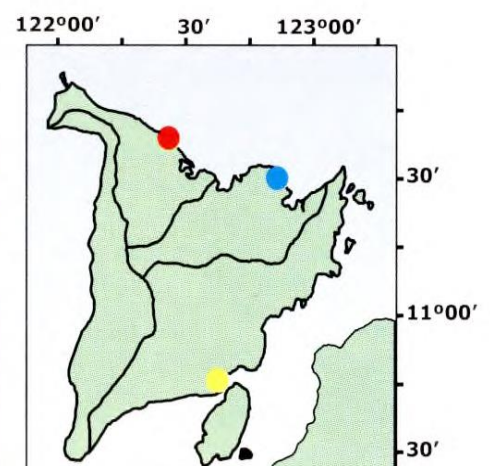
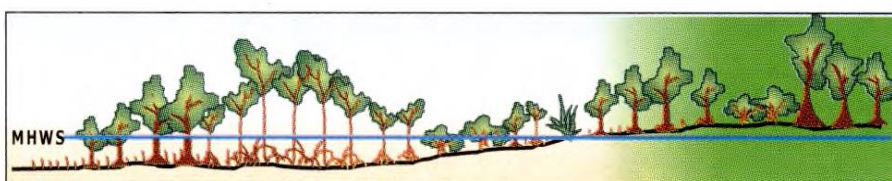
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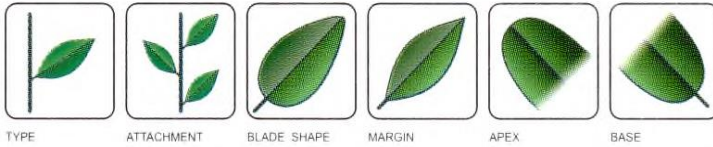
Shape: tree
Height: 5-10 m
DBH: 15-30 cm
Bark: rough, brown
Aerial roots: conical pneumatophores

Sampling sites: ● Pan-ay, Capiz
● Kalibo, Aklan
● Iloilo River, Iloilo

FLOWERING J F M A M J J A S O N D

FRUITING J F M A M J J A S O N D





Leaves

Arrangement: simple, opposite
 Blade shape: round to ovate
 Margin: entire - smooth
 Apex: round
 Base: round
 Upper surface: smooth, dark green
 Undersurface: smooth, green
 Size: 9 (6-11) cm long,
 6 (5-9) cm wide
 Others: petiole base reddish

Flowers

Inflorescence: cyme, terminal
 Petals: white, thin
 Sepals: 5-6 lobed, thick, rough
 Stamens: numerous filaments,
 white (300+)
 Size: 6-8 cm long

Fruits

Shape: rounded
 Color: dark green
 Texture: smooth
 Size: 3-9 cm high,
 5-6 cm diameter
 Others: fleshy; sour-sweet smell
 when ripe; seeds are
 irregular granules larger
 than *S. caseolaris* (inset)

