

Family Rubiaceae

Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea Gaertn.

Local names: *bolaling*, *sagasa*, *hanbulali* (Negros), *nilad* (Tag.)



FORM & ROOT



ARRANGEMENT



INFLORESCENCE

Shrubs with multiple stems to trees up to 10 m tall, on firm mud near tidal creeks or sandy mud near river mouths; tolerate high salinity. The small pinkish-white flowers occur in dense clusters; fruits are deeply grooved and turn brown when ripe. Leaves have a distinct glossy or varnished appearance. Young stems and petioles are reddish and succulent like the leaves, which have been successfully tested as forage for goats and other livestock. Like other mangroves, the branches provide homes for birds (see opposite page, bottom left photo). *Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea* grows in monospecific stands – it was so abundant along Manila Bay and the Pasig River in pre-Hispanic times that the natives called the place “Maynilad” referring to the presence of *nilad*, its local name.

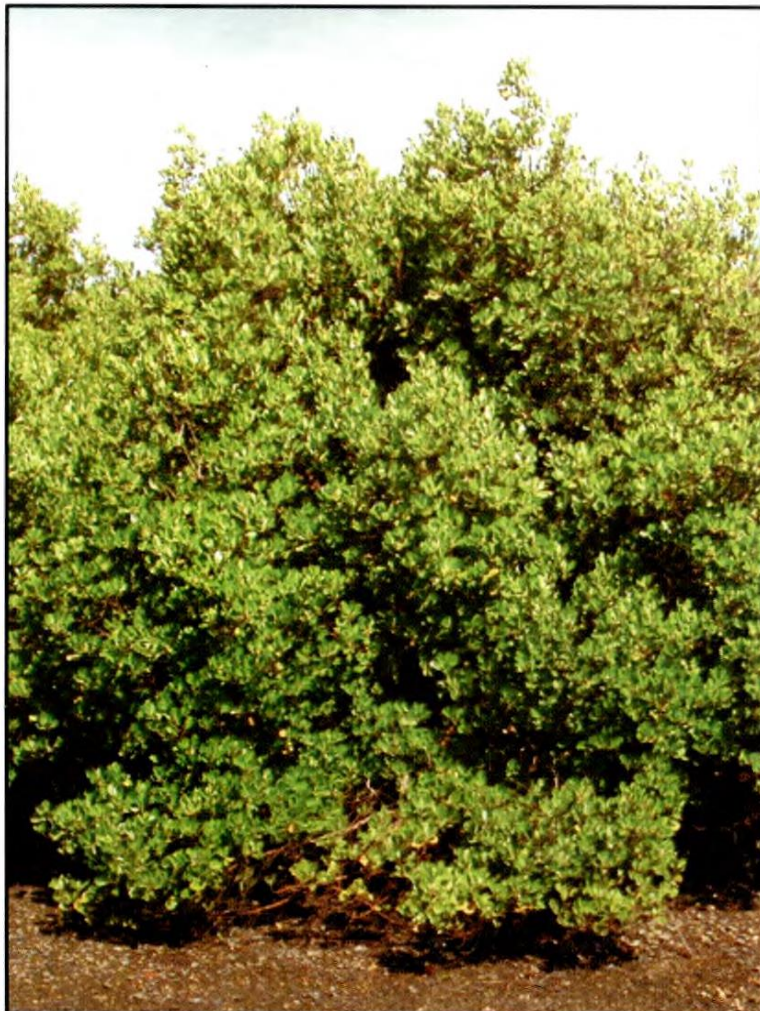
General

Substrate: sandy, muddy
Tidal level: middle, high
Found with: *C. decandra*, *C. tagal*,
L. littorea, *O. octodonta*

Form

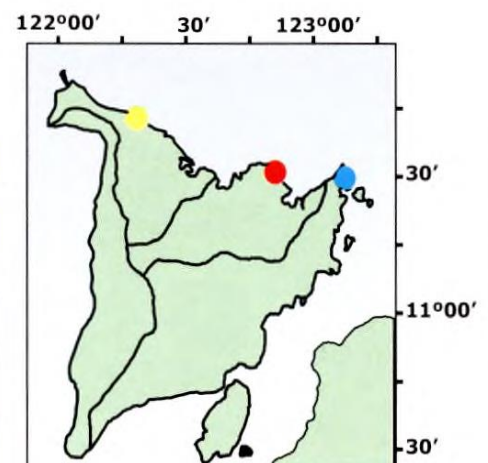
Shape: shrub, tree
Height: 2-10 m
DBH: 5-20 cm
Bark: smooth, light brown
Aerial roots: surface

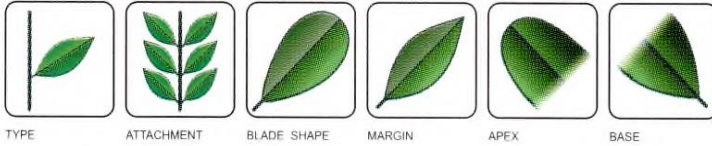
Sampling sites: ● Carles, Iloilo
● Pan-ay, Capiz
● Tangalan, Aklan



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, decussate
 Blade shape: obovate
 Margin: entire - smooth
 Apex: round
 Base: acute
 Upper surface: waxy, dark green
 Undersurface: waxy, light green
 Size: 7 (5-10) cm long,
 4 (3-6) cm wide
 Others: succulent, pointing upward,
 reddish petiole and stems



Flowers

- Inflorescence: cyme, axillary
 Petals: 4, whitish pink
 Sepals: 4, fused
 Stamen: 4, brown
 Size: 0.6-1.5 cm long,
 0.6-0.8 cm diameter
 Others: 15-20 flowers per cluster



Fruits

- Shape: barrel-like, with longitudinal
 ridges
 Color: light green to brown
 when mature
 Texture: smooth
 Size: 0.7-0.9 cm long,
 0.3-0.7 cm diameter

