

Family Combretaceae

Lumnitzera littorea (Jack) Voigt.

Local name: *tabao, libato* (Tagalog)



Medium to tall trees reaching 12 m high in stands along tidal creeks and on muddy to sandy-muddy substrates of back mangroves. In Palawan, a natural stand provides shade to a multispecies mangrove nursery (see opposite page, bottom left photo). *Lumnitzera littorea* is easily differentiated from *L. racemosa* by its bigger size, darker green leaves, and bright red flowers whose buds look like small lipsticks. The beautiful decorative flowers make *L. littorea* suitable for planting in beach resorts. Old *L. littorea* trees in a small pristine mangrove patch in Jawili, Tangalan, Aklan have branches bent close to the ground and a dark trunk that is crooked. Branches can be used for fuel and for smoking fish. A decoction of the leaves is used to treat thrush in infants. In the past, the hard, strong wood was used for heavy construction – bridges, wharves, ships, cart axles, flooring and furniture.



General

Substrate: muddy, sandy
Tidal level: middle, high
Found with: *A. rumphiana*,
B. cylindrica,
O. octodonta,
S. hydrophyllacea

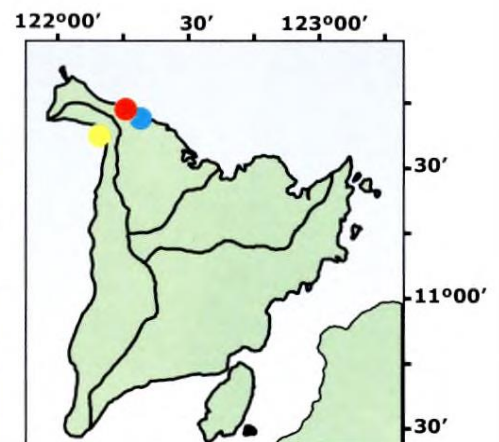
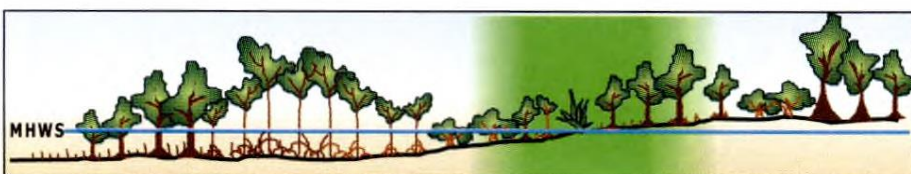
Form

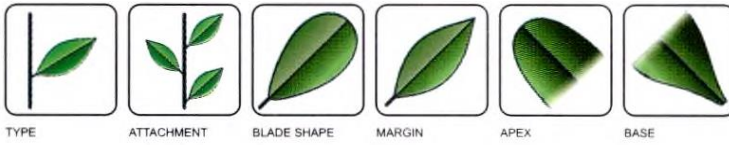
Shape: tree
Height: 3-12 m
DBH: 10-60 cm
Bark: fibrous, rough, deeply fissured; dark brown
Aerial roots: extensive surface

Sampling sites: ● Tangalan, Aklan
● Ibajay, 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

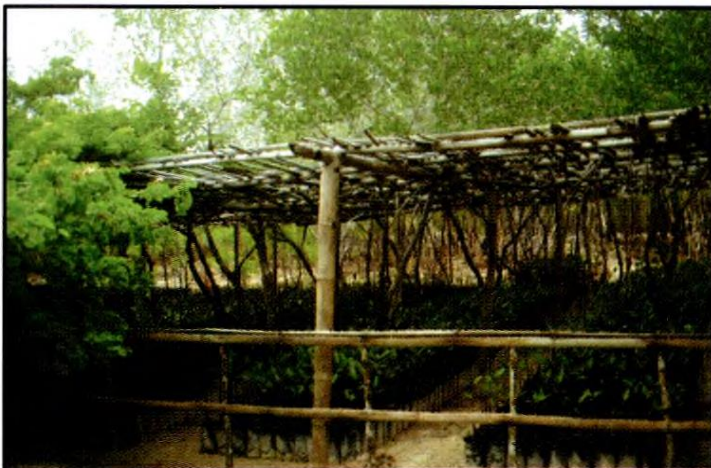
Arrangement: simple, alternate, spiral
 Blade shape: obovate
 Margin: entire - smooth
 Apex: round to emarginate
 Base: sessile
 Upper surface: smooth, green
 Undersurface: smooth, green
 Size: 6 (4-9) cm long,
 2 (1-4) cm wide
 Others: succulent, brittle

Flowers

Inflorescence: spike, axillary
 Petals: 5, bright red
 Sepals: 5, green, fused
 Stamens: 10, red filaments, yellow pollen
 Size: 1-3 cm long,
 0.1-0.3 cm diameter
 Others: stamens longer than petals

Fruits

Shape: vase-shaped
 Color: dark green, reddish base
 Texture: smooth
 Size: 1-2 cm long,
 0.3-0.7 cm diameter
 Others: succulent



Family Combretaceae

Lumnitzera racemosa Willd.

Local names: *tabao*, *culasi*, *bolali* (Negros Occidental)



A pioneering species of small trees up to 6 m high often found in the muddy back mangrove where it forms thick stands and on sandy beaches near the high water line. It has multiple stems, surface roots and succulent leaves with many conspicuous insect bites; older trees have a single trunk and looping roots. *Lumnitzera racemosa* is so widely distributed that many Philippine towns and villages are named after it (Table 8). Interestingly, the two sister species are rarely found together, except in Naisud, Ibaday, Aklan. Aside from firewood, the dried twigs are used as fish-aggregating devices and the leaves as forage for livestock. The trunks of bigger trees are used as house posts. Villagers in Taba-ao, Sagay, Negros Occid. use both cut stems, and planted *L. racemosa* interspersed with *B. cylindrica*, to form a living fence around their dwellings (see opposite, bottom left photos). It is also planted along dikes of fishponds.



General

Substrate: sandy, muddy
Tidal level: middle, high
Found with: *A. marina*, *C. decandra*,
Rhizophora spp.,
S. hydrophyllacea

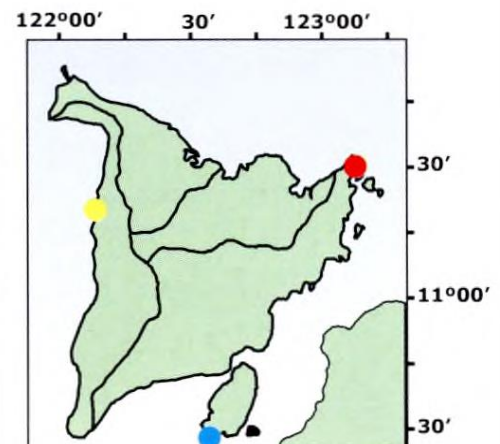
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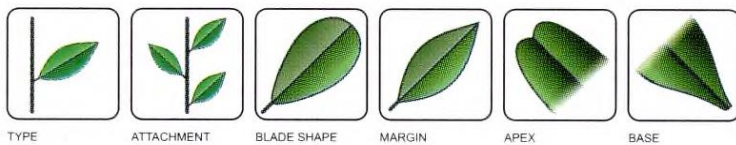
Shape: tree, shrub
Height: 3-6 m
DBH: 3-10 cm
Bark: rough, fibrous, brown;
deeply fissured
Aerial roots: surface, looping
in older trees

Sampling sites: ● Taklong Is., Guimaras
● Carles, Iloilo
● Culasi, 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, alternate, spiral
Blade shape:	obovate
Margin:	entire - smooth
Apex:	emarginate to round
Base:	sessile
Upper surface:	smooth, light green
Undersurface:	smooth, light green
Size:	6 (4-9) cm long, 2 (2-4) cm wide
Others:	succulent

Flowers

Inflorescence:	spike, axillary
Petals:	5, white
Sepals:	5, green, fused
Stamen:	10, pale yellow
Size:	1-1.6 cm long, 0.6-1 cm diameter

Fruits

Shape:	pitcher-like
Color:	green
Texture:	smooth, waxy
Size:	1.1-1.8 cm long, 0.5-0.7 cm diameter
Others:	one side slightly bulging, the other side flat

