

Black mangrove (Avicennia germinans)



The black mangrove is one of three true species of mangroves found within the Virgin Islands. This mangrove is found further inland than the Red and White mangrove due to its tolerance to salt water. One of the best features used to identify a Black mangrove is by its pneumatophores which are roots that protrude upwards from the ground. These aerial roots allow the plant to breathe; exchanging gases which typically aren't found in the soil with the atmosphere.



Figure 1: Black mangrove (left) and its pneumatophores (right). These aerial roots help the plant to exchange gases that it needs for survival. You can think of these roots like the snorkel that you attach on your mask to help you breathe when you go snorkeling.



Figure 2: Many organisms such as crabs make their home in Black mangrove forest stands, consuming leaves that fall from the tree (left) or even the seeds (right).

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Common identifying features of the Black mangrove

