

Rhizophora mangle (Red mangrove)

The red mangrove is one of three true species of mangroves found within the Virgin Islands. It is named the red mangrove because of the color of its bark which when cut, is red on the inside. Red mangroves are found closet to the water's edge.



Figure 1: Red mangrove bark. This bark has many traditional uses which extend to the treatment of snake bites and chest pains.

Red mangroves provide habitat for nesting birds and juvenile fish, act as a buffer for storm surges, as well as help filter water. Because the soils are usually lacking in the nutrients that most plants require for growth, red mangroves have these aerial roots called prop roots which helps them breathe above ground and get the nutrients they need. Many marine organisms consider the aerial roots of the red mangrove home.

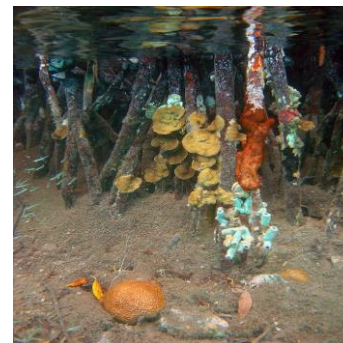
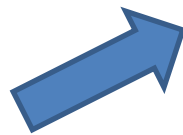


Figure 2: Red mangrove prop roots and the numerous organisms that benefit from them. These prop roots are a main identifying feature of the red mangrove.

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Common identifying features of the Red mangrove

