

# Buttonwood mangrove (*Conocarpus erectus*)



The Buttonwood mangrove is an associate mangrove; it is not classified as a true mangrove but is generally found in areas where mangroves grow. They grow further inland than all three true species of mangroves and because of this, they are excellent buffer systems for winds, pollution, and storm surge.



**Figure 1:** Non-edible berries produced by the Buttonwood mangrove; these berries make for an easy identification marker for this species of mangrove.

There is an old fisherman's tale that a tea produced from the leaves of the Buttonwood mangrove helped in the treatment of fish poisoning. This made the Buttonwood an important plant species because we live in a society where fishing is some people's livelihoods. Not only do people depend on the Buttonwood mangrove, but so do some crabs and birds.



**Figure 2:** Barracuda; one of the fish most highly associated with fish poisoning.



**Figure 3:** Mangrove crab; one of the organisms associated with mangroves.

## Common Identifying features of the Buttonwood mangrove

