



# Flora of Australia

## *Aegiceras* Gaertn.

Author: Betsy R. Jackes

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Aegiceras</i> Gaertn.	4
<i>Aegiceras corniculatum</i> (L.) Blanco	9

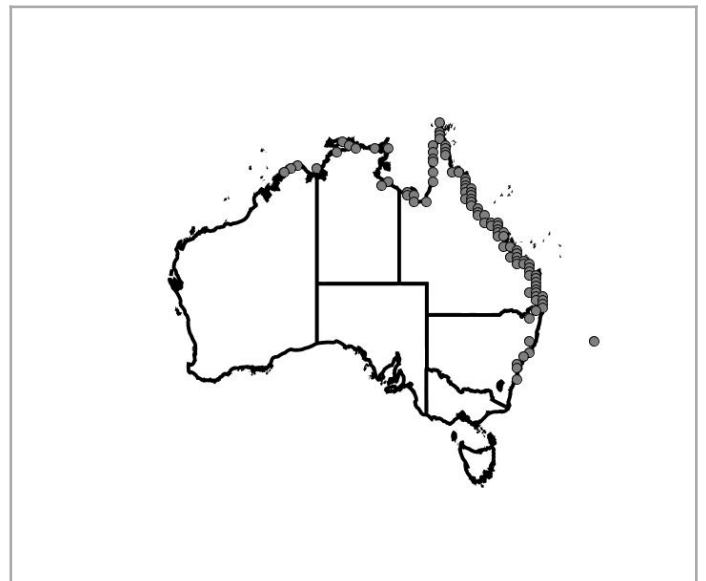
## ***Aegiceras* Gaertn.**

- Gaertner, J (1788), *De Fructibus et Seminibus Plantarum* 1 : 216, t. 46, fig. 1

Betsy R. Jackes

Small trees or shrubs in maritime habitats. Leaves alternate to subopposite, petiolate; lamina coriaceous, obscurely glandular-punctate, margin entire. Inflorescence umbelliform usually on short shoots, or racemose (not in Australia). Flowers bisexual, 5-merous, ebracteate; calyx lobes imbricate, contorted, glandular-punctate; corolla fused at base, lobes imbricate, contorted, reflexed at maturity, hairs present in corolla tube; staminal filaments connate at the base and fused to the base of the corolla tube; anthers transversely septate, at maturity extending horizontally above corolla; ovary superior, slender, fusiform, placentation free central; ovules numerous, embedded in placenta; style terminal, glands at base; stigma punctiform. Fruit a dry indehiscent capsule, cylindrical, curved, style persistent. Seed 1, embedded in a resinous pulp, endosperm absent. Germination usually viviparous.

*Distribution:* A maritime genus with 2 species; 1 species in Australia. Found from Sri Lanka E to southern China and the Philippines and S to Australia.



*Etymology:* From the Greek *aigos* (a goat) and *keras* (horn), referring to the shape of the mature fruit.

*Common Name:* Goat's-horn Fruit.

*Nomenclature and Typification:* ***Aegiceras* Gaertn.**, *De Fructibus et Seminibus Plantarum* 1: 216, fig. 1, t. 46 (1788). Type: *A. majus* Gaertn., lectotype, *vide* F.A. Pax in H.G.A. Engler & K.A.E. Prantl, *Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien* T. IV IV (1): 97 (1890).

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- Wheeler, J.R. (1992). Myrsinaceae, in Wheeler, J.R. (ed.) *et al.*, *Flora of the Kimberley Region*, pp. 273–275. (Western Australian Herbarium, Department of Conservation and Land Management: Como).

Source: Published 23 March 2021.

## Images



Fig. 1: '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Busby, J. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)

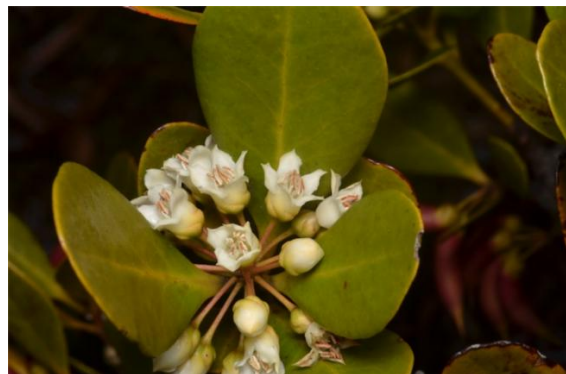


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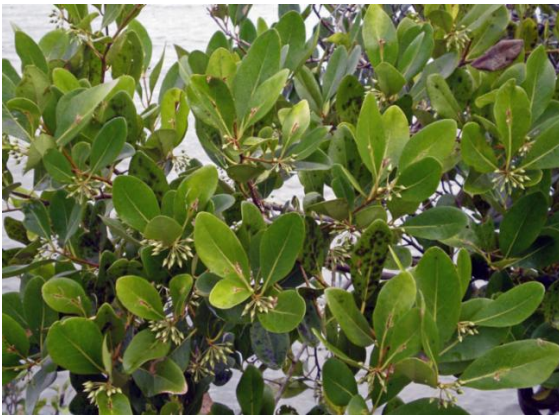




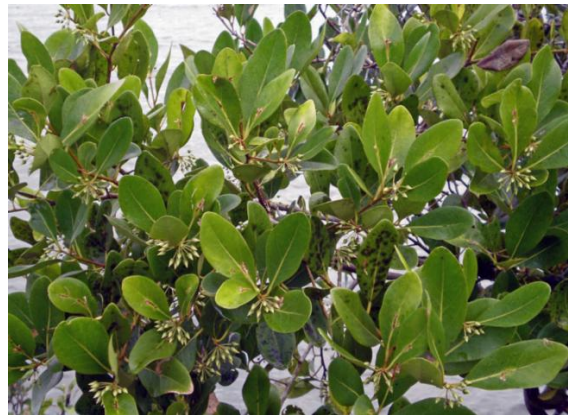
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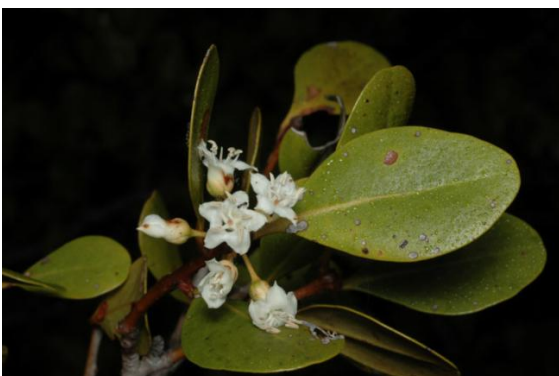
**Fig. 10:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



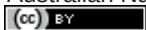
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**Fig. 12:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)

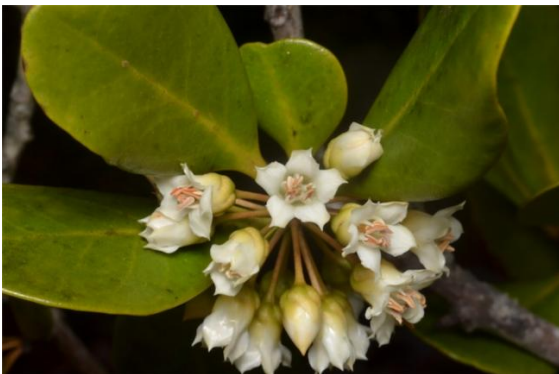


**Fig. 13:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)



**Fig. 14:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)





**Fig. 15:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



**Fig. 16:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Busby, J. (© Busby, J.)



**Fig. 17:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



**Fig. 18:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



**Fig. 19:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



**Fig. 20:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Busby, J. (© Busby, J.)





## Acknowledgements

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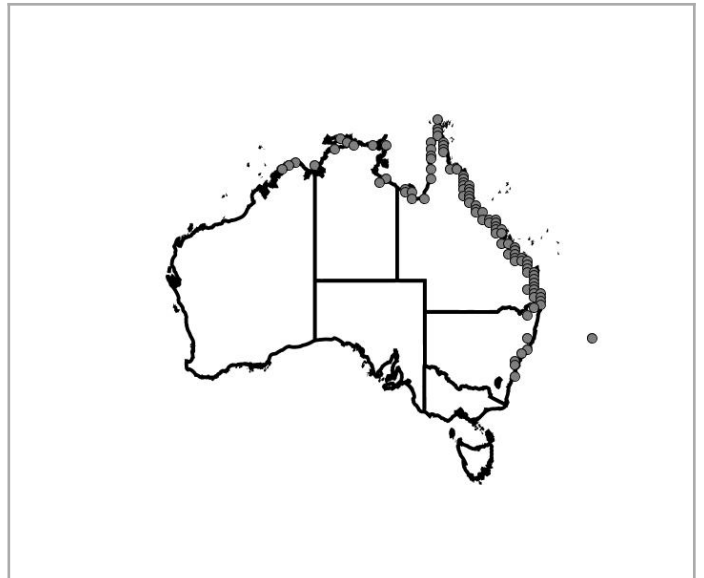
## *Aegiceras corniculatum* (L.) Blanco

- Blanco, F.M. (1837), *Flora de Filipinas* Edn. 1 : 79

Betsy R. Jackes, P.G. Kodela

Shrub or small tree to 7 m high, mostly to c. 4–5 m high, often multistemmed; bark ± smooth, grey to brown. Leaves alternate; petiole 5–12 (–15) mm long; lamina elliptic to obovate, (2.5–) 3–11.5 cm long, (1–) 1.5–5.4 (–6) cm wide, coriaceous, bright mid-green above, paler below, glabrous, base cuneate, margin entire, usually recurved, apex obtuse to emarginate, glands reddish (salt secreting glands). Inflorescence umbelliform terminating short axillary shoots, occasionally terminal; peduncle 0–10 mm long; pedicels (5–) 7–15 (–18) mm long. Flowers 5–25 (–30) per umbel, 5-merous, white, fragrant, apex pointed in bud; calyx (2–) 3–5 mm long; corolla tube 3–5 mm long, densely hairy at mouth, glandular hairs towards base, the lobes 4.5–6 mm long, spreading-reflexed; anthers narrowly sagittate, c. 3 mm long; ovary conical, 6–8 mm long, pedicellate, glands at base of style. Fruit cylindrical (with long-pointed apex), curved, (2–) 3–4 cm long (excluding style), 4–6 mm wide, green to maroon, style persistent to 5 mm long.

*Distribution:* Extends around the Australian coastline from the Burrup Peninsula, Western Australia, (20° 41' S) to southern New South Wales and Lord Howe Island. It is also found along the coastlines of neighbouring countries extending as far W as India.



*Common Name:* River Mangrove, Black Mangrove, Mangrove, Horned Mangrove.

*Phenology:* Flowers chiefly May–October; fruits mature December–March.

*Biostatus*: Native.

*Habitat*: This species is tolerant of a wide range of tidal environments. It is found along the banks of tidal creeks and estuaries usually on the seaward side of the mangrove community.

*Ecology*: A mangrove contributing to the functioning and stability of estuarine and tidal river ecosystems, providing habitat, shelter and a source of food (for aquatic and terrestrial organisms), maintaining water quality (filter and trap sediments and pollutants), soil stability, foreshore protection. Mangroves in the intertidal zone play an important role between the land and the sea. As breeding grounds for many fish, prawns, crabs and other shellfish, mangrove wetlands help maintain aquatic ecosystems which in turn support fisheries.

*Aegiceras corniculatum* often occurs in mixed stands with *Avicennia marina* but usually grows in shallower water and will extend further upstream and occur more inland than that species (Sainty & Jacobs 1981, Harden 1990). Germination in *Aegiceras corniculatum* is viviparous, the seed germinates within the fruit while it is on the plant. Then when the fruit drops off it can float in the tidal water until lodging in a suitable habitat.

The nectar of *Aegiceras corniculatum* is very attractive to bees.

*Representative Herbarium Specimens*: W.A.: Cossack, near Roebourne, Pilbara Coast, K.F. Kenneally 6323 (CANB, PERTH).

N.T.: West Island, Sir Edward Pellow Group, B.G. Thompson 2659 (AD, BRI, CANB, DNA, NSW, PERTH).

Qld: Pascoe River, N.C. Duke AIM641 (BRI); N bank of Mossman River, L.S. Smith 4003 (BRI); Bishop Island, mouth of the Brisbane River, c. 10 km N of Wynnum, L. Durrington 1304 (BRI).

N.S.W.: Merimbula Lake, 25 Aug. 1982, W.G. Alloway s.n. (BRI).

L.H.I.: SE corner of Mosely Park, L.A.S. Johnson & A.N. Rodd 1318 (K, NSW); mouth of Soldiers Creek, P.S. Green 2033 (K); *loc. id.*, J.C. Game 69/314 (K); *s. loc.*, 1920, J.L. Boorman (BRI); *s. loc.*, J.D. McComish 80 (K); *fide* Green (1994: 150).

*Uses*: Used in traditional medicine, and investigated for its chemical and medicinal properties.

*Nomenclature and Typification*: ***Aegiceras corniculatum* (L.) Blanco**, *Fl. Filip.* ed. 1, 79 (1837); *Rhizophora corniculata* L., *Amoenitates Academicae* 4: 123 (1760) based on *Mangium corniculatum* Rump., *Herbarium Amboinense* 3: 117, t. 77 (1754).

*Aegiceras majus* Gaertn., *Fruct. Sem. Pl.* 1: 216 (1788). Type: Sri Lanka

*Aegiceras fragrans* K.D.König in K.D.E. König & J. Sims, *Annals of Botany* 1: 129, pl. 3 (1804 [1805]), *nom. illeg.*

*Notes*: For accounts of *Aegiceras corniculatum* on Lord Howe Island see Hutton (1986: 131; 2002: 82) and (Green 1994: 150).

*Illustrations*: G.E. Rumphius, *Herbarium Amboinense* 3: 117–118, t. 77 (1743), as *Mangium corniculatum*; C. Mez, *Das Pflanzenreich* 9(IV 236): 56, fig. 8 (1902); R. Lear & T. Turner, *Mangroves of Australia* 29, fig. 26; 32, fig. 30.5 (1977); V. Semeniuk *et al.*, *Mangroves of Western Australia* 1: pls 6 & 15b (1978); V. Semeniuk *et al.*, *Mangroves of Western Australia, Handbook No. 12*: 35, pl. 6; 50, pl. 15b (1978); G.R. Sainty & S.W.L. Jacobs, *Waterplants of New South Wales* 286–287 (1981); E.R. Rotherham *et al.*, *Flowers and Plants of New South Wales and Southern Queensland* 18, pl. 4 (1982); K. Brennan, *Wildflowers of Kakadu* 114, pl. 211 (1986); I. Hutton, *Lord Howe Island* 131 (1986); T.D. Stanley & E.M. Ross, *Flora of South-eastern Queensland* 2: 271, fig. 39A (1986); P.B. Tomlinson, *The Botany of Mangroves* 286, fig. B.44 & 287, fig. B.45 (1986); K.A.W. Williams, *Native Plants of Queensland* 3: 19 (1987); A. Fairley & P. Moore, *Native Plants of the Sydney District* 98, pl. 267 (1989); G.M. Wightman, *Mangroves of the Northern Territory* 35, fig. 9 (1989); G.J. Harden, *Flora of New South Wales* 1: 504 (1990); J.R. Wheeler (ed.) *et al.*, *Flora of the Kimberley Region* 274, fig. 79 (1992); K.F. Kenneally *et al.*, *Broome and Beyond* 140 (1996); I. Hutton, *A Field Guide to the Plants of Lord Howe Island* 82 (2002); W. Cooper & W.T. Cooper, *Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest* 334 (2004); N.C. Duke, *Australia's Mangroves* 98–99 (2006); G.M. Wightman, *Mangroves of the Northern Territory, Australia* 45, fig. 12 (2006); G. Leiper *et al.*, *Mangroves to Mountains* 28 (2008); N. Duke, in G. Sainty *et al.* (eds), *Estuary Plants and What's Happening to Them in South-east Australia* 138, fig. 8; 144–145 (2012); B.R. Jackes *et al.*, *Flora of the Darwin Region* 1: 5, fig. 1; 9, pls 1 & 2 (2013).

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- Semeniuk, V., Kenneally, K.F. & Wilson, P.G. (1978). *Mangroves of Western Australia. Handbook No. 12*. (Western Australian Naturalists' Club: Perth).

Source: Published 23 March 2021.

## Nomenclature

Green, P.S. in Wilson, A.J.G. (ed.) (1994), Norfolk Island & Lord Howe Island. *Flora of Australia* 49 : 150

nomenclatural synonym: *Rhizophora corniculata* L.

taxonomic synonym: *Aegiceras majus* Gaertn.

taxonomic synonym: *Aegiceras fragrans* K.D.Koenig

common name: Mangrove

## Images



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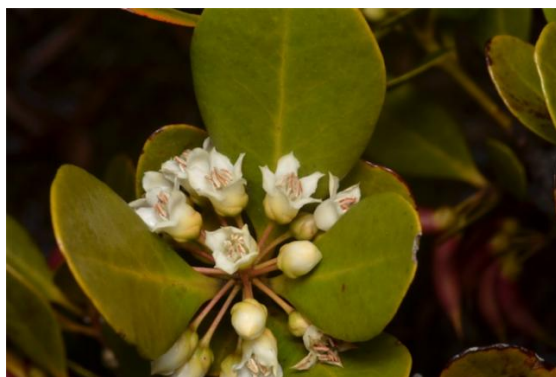
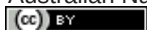


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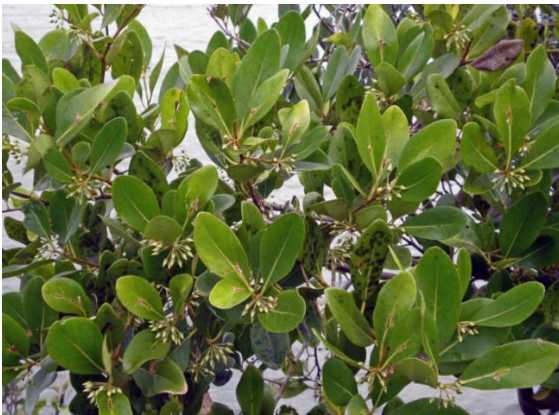




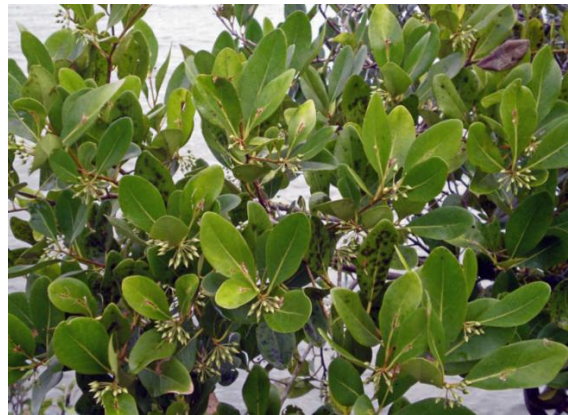
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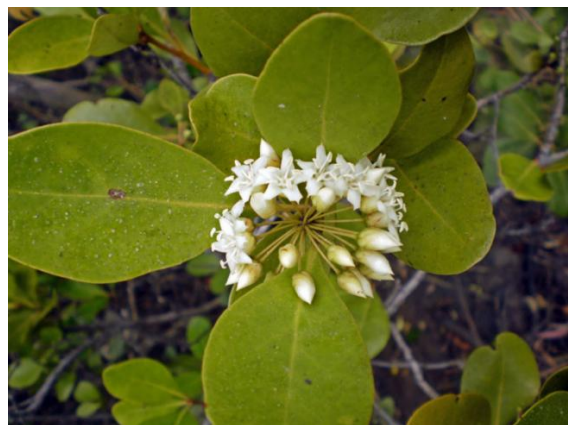
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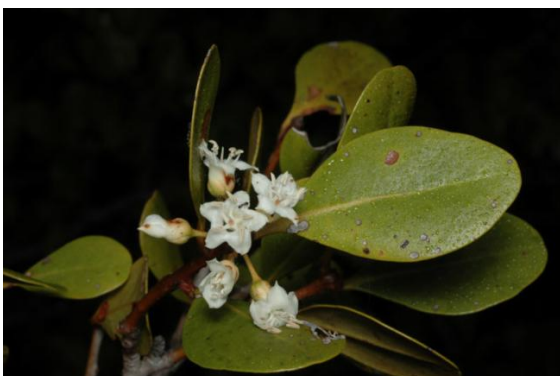
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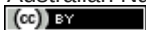
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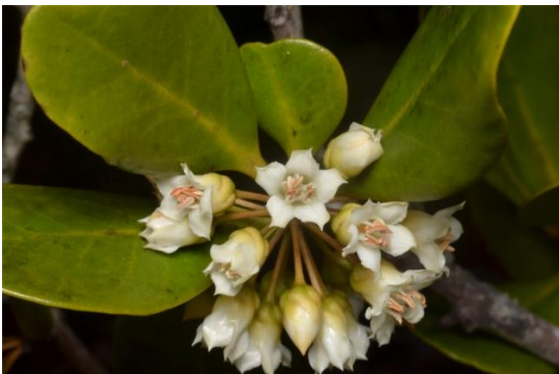


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**Fig. 18:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



**Fig. 19:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



**Fig. 20:** '*Aegiceras corniculatum*' by Busby, J. (© Busby, J.)



## Acknowledgements

Editor

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