

Acanthus ilicifolius

Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Plantae
Order: Lamiales
Family: Acanthaceae
Genus: Acanthus
Species: *A. Ilicifolius*



mangrovesocietyofindia.in

Plant profile

A. ilicifolius (sea holly) occurs in tropical Asia and Africa, through Malaya to Polynesia. It is a viny shrub or tall herb, up to 1.5 m high, scarcely woody, bushy, with very dense growth. Shallow tap roots, but occasionally stilt roots are conspicuous. Leaf simple, opposite, decussate, cauline, estipulate, petiole short, flattened, glabrous, pulvinous to sheathing base. Flower bisexual, typically zygomorphic, complete, erect, sessile, hypogynous. Fruit 1 cm green and 2.5 - 2.0 cm long, kidney shaped 4 seed drupe, Seed 0.5 - 1.0 cm long (Xie et al 2005).

Ecology:

It commonly grows on the river banks or tidal canal sides or low swampy areas in the mangrove forests and its vicinity.

Uses:

This plant can be used as medicine for neuralgia and rheumatism. Several authors have described the chemical properties of this species and its use in China (Peng and Long 2006, Liu and Lin 2008). The root (boiled in mustard oil) is used in paralysis of limbs; water extracted from the bark is used to treat colds and skin allergies.
