

## Identifying mangrove species

There are five species of true mangroves in Hong Kong Wetland Park. Based on your observation and information provided in the table, try to identify the mangrove plants that you have observed. Paste the photos in the spaces and complete the identification key.

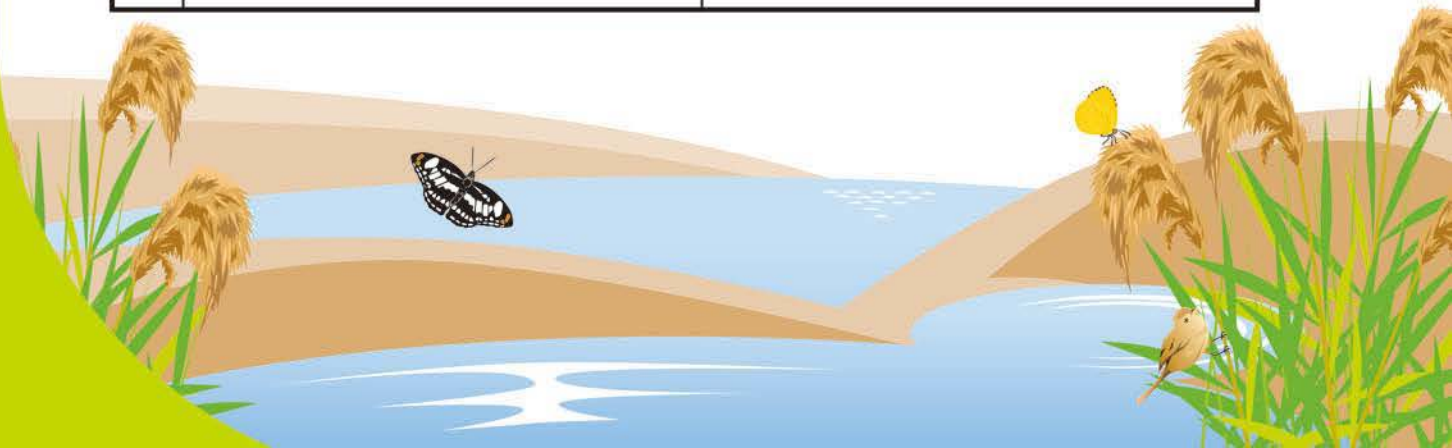
You could share what you have learnt with your friends with the aid of this identification key when visit wetlands in the future.

Please be reminded that the reproductive organs of mangroves could only be seen in certain period of time.

|    | Characteristics  | Names and Pictures of Mangroves |
|----|--|---------------------------------|
| 1a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Herbs, grasses or climbers</li> </ul>   | Other coastal plants            |
| 1b | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trees, Shrubs and ferns</li> </ul>  | → 2                             |
| 2a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ferns with light green pinnate.</li> <li>● Each pinnae is broad at base and with a notched tip.</li> <li>● Yellow spores (sporangium) might be found under the pinnate.</li> </ul>  |                                 |
| 2b | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Plants other than ferns</li> </ul>  | → 3                             |
| 3a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Most leaves are more than 10cm in length</li> </ul>   | → 4                             |
| 3b | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Most leaves are less than 10cm in length</li> </ul>   | → 5                             |
| 4a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Leaves with pointed apexes and red petioles.</li> <li>● Brownish red prop roots and knee-jointed roots.</li> <li>● Red flowers might be found from May to September.</li> <li>● Cigar-shaped dropper might be found hanging on tree from October to April.</li> </ul> |                                 |



|    | Characteristics   | Names and Pictures of Mangroves |
|----|---|---------------------------------|
| 4b | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Leaves are blunt, dark green above and silvery white on the lower surface.</li> <li>● Blade-like roots – buttress roots are distinctive features.</li> <li>● Fruit is green in colour, with a ridge on it. Fruiting season is June to October.</li> <li>● However, dried brown fruits can be found on the ground throughout the year.</li> </ul> |                                 |
| 5a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Leaves with notched apices</li> </ul>  | → 6                             |
| 5b | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Leaves without notched apices</li> </ul>   | → 7                             |
| 6a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Petioles are red in colour</li> <li>● Bark is deep brown in colour</li> <li>● Salt crystals can be found on upper surface of leaves (as salt glands are present).</li> <li>● White flowers with pleasant smell might be observed from January to April.</li> <li>● Crescent-shaped dropper might be found in May to September.</li> </ul>        |                                 |
| 6b | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The bark is grey in colour.</li> <li>● Salt glands is absence, hence no salt crystal would be found on leave.</li> <li>● White flowers might be found from May to December.</li> <li>● Small vase-shaped fruits might be seen from August to January.</li> </ul>   |                                 |



|    | Characteristics  | Names and Pictures of Mangroves |
|----|--|---------------------------------|
| 7a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Distinct finger- like aerial roots (pneumatophores)</li> <li>● Yellow flowers might be found from April to August.</li> <li>● Small oval-shaped fruits might be found from August to October.</li> </ul>  |                                 |
| 7b | No finger-like aerial roots (pneumatophores)   | → 8                             |
| 8a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Leaves with rounded apexes.</li> <li>● Pale brown prop roots and knee-jointed roots.</li> <li>● White flowers with long stamens might be found from April to August.</li> <li>● Droppers are slender and tapered at ends, which might be observed from August to April.</li> </ul>  |                                 |
| 8b | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Oval leaves with pointed apexes.</li> <li>● Young leaves are green, the leaves change to red or yellow in colour while getting old.</li> <li>● Flowers are yellow which might be observed in April and May.</li> <li>● 3-lobed fruits are green in colour that might be found in May and June.</li> </ul> <p><b>*Cautions:</b> Please keep a distance from the <i>Excoecaria agallocha</i> as the milky sap of the tree may cause irritation to skin and eyes</p> |                                 |