

BUTTONWOOD

Conocarpus erectus

- The Buttonwood is a native that you find near the higher grounds at the fringe of mangrove swamps.
- This “associate” is not considered a mangrove since its seeds do not germinate on the tree.
- The alternate leathery leaves are lance-shaped. It is a low shrubby tree with a spreading crown, growing to 60 feet in height.
- The small greenish flowers occur as fuzzy balls. The brown spherical cone-like fruits remain on the tree for long periods before the scale-like seeds separate and fall to the ground.
- The heavy wood from this tree makes high-grade charcoal. The bark is used for tanning leather.
- The famous “Marco Cat” was carved from a native hardwood and some believe it was carved from Buttonwood.
- Somewhat like the White Mangrove, the Buttonwood has nectaries on its petioles, but they are more on the sides and usually slightly staggered instead of being opposite.

