

Penaga Laut (*Calophyllum inophyllum*)

Location: East Coast Park



(Credit: NParks)

The Penaga Laut is a slow-growing, evergreen seashore tree that can grow up to 30 m tall. Found naturally on sandy and rocky shores of the region, ranging from the Indian Ocean to the western Pacific, this Singapore native is classified as Critically Endangered according to the Singapore Red Data Book (2008).

This tree has a wide-spreading crown supported by a relatively short trunk that branches off into several large limbs, and deeply cracked, dark brown bark. Its glossy, dark green leaves have pretty, fine parallel veins that are described in its scientific name, which is derived from the Greek words *kalos* for 'beautiful' and *phullon* for 'leaf'. Its sweetly fragrant, white flowers, which occur in clusters, attract pollinators like bees, while its round, thick-skinned and light green fruit is eaten by fishes, squirrels, and bats.

The Penaga Laut is used in traditional medicine. For example, oil from the seeds is used to treat skin ailments.



This tree near the entrance of Bedok Jetty has a unique uneven crown, which is believed to be shaped by the coastal breezes. Its girth measured 4.7 m when it was endorsed as a Heritage Tree in 2021.