

Coastal Saltmarsh



Coastal Saltmarsh occurs in the intertidal zone on the shores of estuaries and lagoons that are permanently or intermittently open to the sea. It is frequently found as a zone on the landward side of the mangrove stands. Occasionally Mangroves are scattered through the saltmarsh. Tall reeds may also occur.

Characteristic plant species

- *Baumea juncea*
- Sea Rush (*Juncus kraussii* subsp. *australiensis*)
- Samphire (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora* subsp. *quinqueflora*)
- Marine Couch (*Sporobolus virginicus*)
- Steaked Arrowgrass (*Triglochin striata*)
- Knobby Club-rush (*Ficinia nodosa*)
- Creeping Brookweed (*Samolus repens*)
- Swamp Weed (*Selliera radicans*)
- Seablite (*Suaeda australis*)
- Prickly Couch (*Zoysia macrantha*).



Environmental importance of Saltmarsh

- They provide an important food source for juvenile fish and crustaceans
- They provide nutrient and sediment balance between saltmarsh and other environments, such as mangroves, sea grass beds and open water systems
- Provides a protected environment for both marine and terrestrial organisms, some of which are endangered and protected.
- Provide protection of coastlines from the erosive effects of storms and extreme tides
- Traps and binds sediment aiding in the process of land making
- Maintains water quality of ground water