

THE FLORA, FAUNA & MARINE LIFE OF SECRET BAY



Secret Bay

DOMINICA, CARIBBEAN

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Secret Bay has worked hard to preserve and re-establish the wildlife that thrives here. It is not just about creating a place to stay, but also capturing Dominica in a time when her land and wildlife were valued not just for what they could provide, but as cohabitants in a precious ecosystem.



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INTRODUCTION

Secret Bay sits on a point overlooking what is now known as Prince Rupert’s Bay. After Dominica was ceded to the British in the 1700s, plans were drawn to make Portsmouth the island’s capital. However, due to the prevalence of yellow fever and malaria at the time, the capital was instead relocated to its current location in Roseau. Had that been the case, how different things would have looked! The green hillsides would likely have been replaced with buildings and the necessary infrastructure, and the bay, a thriving commercial harbour, not the peaceful scene you see before you.

So instead, let’s travel into the past, to a time when the Europeans first sighted the island.

The area was known then as Ou-you-hao by the Kalinago. It was the site of a major village, and their main settlement lay safely on the upper banks of the Indian River. A rough and rugged shoreline, the beach continued around the bay interrupted only by the swamps and marshlands. Rich forests with tall old trees abutted the sand and the Indian River flowed freely into the sea. The Kalinago would have hunted crabs, birds and iguanas much like their hunter-gathering ancestors, but they were also farmers and expert seafarers. They cleared portions of land to farm maize and cassava, and they fished and traded with islanders as far north as Puerto Rico in canoes carved from the gommier tree.

Dominica was uniquely located in the path of the northeasterly trade winds, and sailing ships carried on the canary current would arrive in the Caribbean through the channel between Dominica and

Guadeloupe. After days at sea and in need of replenishment, Ou- you-hao, later known as Prince Rupert’s Bay was a popular stopping-off point, and trading between the Europeans and Kalinago islanders ensued. Fresh water, food and wood were in high demand. Imagine the scene as it was, massive ships anchored in the forested bay as the Kalinago islanders would greet the ships in canoes full of supplies. Because of the Kalinago resistance, Dominica remained a raw and wild island in a time when all surrounding lands were being heavily colonized by European nations. During the time of the African Slave trade, Africans who were able to escape from a neighboring island or anchored ship would find refuge in Dominica’s forests, setting the foundations for Dominica’s thriving Maroon population, or Negre Mawon.

Over the years, the bay saw much change. Demand for wood increased as the other islands exhausted their supplies. The west coast was an ideal place for harvesting trees, and many of the large old trees that grew here quickly disappeared, changing the landscape. As agriculture took hold, the land became exhausted and eroded. Plants and animals were introduced and the west coast you see today is a land in recovery.

Secret Bay has worked hard to preserve and re-establish the wildlife that thrives here. It is not just about creating a place to stay, but also capturing Dominica in a time when her land and wildlife were valued not just for what they could provide, but as cohabitants in a precious ecosystem. In this booklet, we glimpse into the flora, fauna and marine life that make up our little piece of paradise. Secret Bay offers experiences which allow the explorer in each of us to be set free, as, through our experiences, we can observe, understand and appreciate the natural world around us.

FLORA

With such a mountainous terrain, Dominica is a treasure trove of biodiversity. Secret Bay sits in the rain shadow of Dominica’s highest mountain Morne Diablotins, which means conditions here are drier than in other parts of the island. Known as dry scrub woodland, the naturally occurring vegetation found on this leeward coast has evolved ways to tolerate dry conditions, an abundance of sunshine and saltwater.



Whether endemic or introduced, the flora of Dominica make for an interesting and varied landscape.

Many of the introduced plants were brought over during European colonization, from Africa or the pacific islands where there exists similar climates.



Denotes Edible Flora

Coccoloba pubescens
Family name: Polygonaceae | *Local name:* Wézinyé, Grand feuille | *Range:* Native to Caribbean Coasts | *Fun Facts:* Flourishes in coastal settings due to its high salt and drought tolerance. Large leaves can be used as a makeshift umbrella.



Coccoloba uvifera
Family name: Polygonaceae | *Local name:* Wézinyé bôd-lamè, Seagrape *Range:* Native to Caribbean Coasts | *Fun Facts:* A popular landscaping plant, the reddish fruits are edible, used to make jams, jellies, wine and vinegar. It can also be used as a dye and for the tanning of leather.



Homalium racemosum
Family name: Salicaceae | *Local name:* White Cogwood, Acoma, Hèt, *Range:* Native to Caribbean Coasts *Fun Facts:* A member of the willow family, its hard, heavy and strong wood is used in construction. The root and leaves are known to contain medicinal properties.



Pisonia fragrans
Family name: Nyctaginaceae | *Local name:* Mapou *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* This evergreen tree common to the coast, produces pale yellow flowers.



Casearia decandra
Family name: Flacourtiaceae | *Local name:* Wild Cherry | *Range:* Native to Caribbean Coasts | *Fun Facts:* Sometimes referred to as a honey plant due to their use by honeybees to collect nectar and pollen for making honey.



Pimenta racemosa
Family name: Myrtaceae | *Local name:* Bwa denn, Bay Leaf Tree *Range:* Native to Caribbean region | *Fun Facts:* The leaves are used in cooking and to make bay oil which is distilled to produce bay rum. Bay rum is used as a cologne, cleaning agent or even mosquito repellent.



Eugenia ligustrina
Family name: Myrtaceae | *Local name:* Birchberry, Méwiz | *Range:* Native to Caribbean region | *Fun Facts:* Found scattered within woodland forests.



Clusia minor
Family name: Combretaceae | *Local name:* Kaklen, Lagali, Zabwiko-mawon *Range:* Native to Caribbean and Central America | *Fun Facts:* Found in damp areas, it derived its Latin name Clusia from French botanist Carolus Clusius who is responsible for the development of the tulip, potato and chestnut.



Hippomane mancinella
Family name: Euphorbiaceae | *Local name:* Manjini, Manchineel *Range:* Native to Caribbean & Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* Known as beach apple, be careful around this tree, although endangered it is considered one of **the most poisonous trees in the world**. All parts of the tree, including the fruit and sap, are toxic.



Margaritaria nobilis
Family name: Euphorbiaceae | *Local name:* Mil-bwanch; Mille Branches | *Range:* Caribbean and Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* A fast growing ornamental tree that can be used in landscaping and good for reestablishing woodlands, it produces a bright blue fruit.



Andira inermis
Family name: Fabaceae | *Local name:* Angelin, Anjlen, Cabbage Tree | *Range:* Native southern Mexico and Central America, introduced to Caribbean, Florida, Africa. | *Fun Facts:* This nitrogen-fixing tree produces beautiful pink flowers. Its wood can be used for lumbar and its bark is known to have various medical properties.



Terminalia catappa
Family name: Combretaceae | *Local name:* Indian Almond, Almond, Zamann | *Range:* Tropical Americas, Asia, Africa, India, Australia | *Fun Facts:* This introduced deciduous tree flourishes in coastal areas. It is uncertain where it originated as it has been so widely spread. The fruit are edible and leaves change color before falling.



Ceiba pentandra (occidentalis)
Family name: Bombaceae | *Local name:* Fòmajé, Flo Tree, Silk Cotton, Kapok *Range:* Native to Caribbean and Central America region | *Fun Facts:* This commercial tree has many uses. The seed pods produce cotton-like fluff which is used as alternative to down. Its bark and seeds also have some commercial use. Flowers are frequented by honeybees.



Byrsonima spicata (crassifolia) or Malpighia spicata
Family name: Malpighiaceae | *Local name:* Bwa tan, Serret, Bois Marie, Mowisif *Range:* Native to Caribbean & Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* Found in damp coastal areas and lands that have been degraded by farming. Has edible and medical uses.



Hymenaea courbaril
Family name: Fabaceae | *Local name:* Courbaril, Koubawi, Locust, Kas, Stinktoe | *Range:* Caribbean and Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* A tropical hardwood used in furniture and flooring, the fruit of Coubaril has a rich edible pulp high in starch and protein, a major food in indigenous populations.



Delonix regia
Family name: Fabaceae | *Local name:* Flamboyant, Shakshak tree, Flame tree | *Range:* Endemic to Madagascar, but introduced to tropical and subtropical regions around the world | *Fun Facts:* Notable for its fernlike leaves and vibrant display of flowers. The flamboyant bursts into colour during the summer months, from about May to September. Flowers are frequented by honeybees.



Haematoxylum campechianum
Family name: Fabaceae | *Local name:* Campech, Kanpèch, Logwood, Bloodwood | *Range:* Caribbean and Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* The wood produces a versatile dye, used on textiles and paper, common during the 1600 - 1800s. Also a source of haematoxylin, today it is used in histology for staining.



Inga laurina
Family name: Fabaceae | *Local name:* Pois doux, Pwa-dou, Sacky-sac, Guama | *Range:* Caribbean and Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* Used as a shade tree on coffee and cocoa plantations, the Pois doux is also nitrogen fixing benefiting any plants closely surrounding it.



Lonchocarpus pentaphyllus
Family name: Fabaceae | *Local name:* Savonnèt | *Range:* Native to South & Central America and the Caribbean. | *Fun Facts:* The nectar from the blossoms of this tree used by honeybees makes great honey.



Sabinea carinalis
Family name: Fabaceae | *Local name:* Bwa Kwaib, Carib Logwood | *Range:* Endemic to Dominica | *Fun Facts:* This is Dominica’s national flower, selected around the time of the island’s independence (1978). It is grows along the dry west coast and flowers during the months of February to April.



Ficus citrifolia
Family name: Moraceae | *Local name:* Figuier, Fijyé, Strangler Fig, Wild banyantree | *Range:* Native to Caribbean and Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* Beginning as an epiphyte, the ficus attaches to other trees, strangling them as it grows. The fruit are such an important part of the diet of so many species it is considered a Tropical keystone species.



Bursera simaruba
Family name: Burseraceae | *Local name:* Copperwood , Naked Indian, Tourist Tree, Gommier wouj, Gommier barrier, Peel-bark Gommier | *Range:* Native to tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* This fast growing deciduous & wind tolerant tree, gets its name because of its peeling, shiny bark.



Samanea saman
Family name: Mimosaceae | *Local name:* Saman, Raintree | *Range:* Caribbean and tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* A large shade tree, the leaves fold together during the night and in wet weather. Because of this, rain is able to fall through allowing grass to grow right up to the trunk.



Gliricidia sepium
Family name: Fabaceae | *Local name:* Glory Cedar, Quickstick | *Range:* Native to Mexico and Central America | *Fun Facts:* This fast growing tree was used to shade crops such as coffee. But its many uses include slope stabilization, living fences, fodder and firewood.



Leucaena leucocephala
Family name: Fabaceae | *Local name:* Zing-Zing | *Range:* Endemic to Mexico, but invasive in areas. It is found in tropical and subtropical regions around the world | *Fun Facts:* Although the young pods are edible by humans, the legume is high in protein and used primarily as fodder for livestock. are frequented by honeybees.



Erythrina variegata
Family name: Fabaceae | *Local name:* Immortelle, Tiger’s claw, Indian Coral Tree, Sunshine Tree | *Range:* Native to Tropical Regions of the Pacific, found throughout the tropics | *Fun Facts:* A prized ornamental tree, the Immortelle produces beautiful scarlet or crimson flowers from about January to June.



Calliandra tergemina
Family name: Mimosoideae | *Local name:* Powderpuff plant, Bread & Cheese or Bwa Ravine | *Range:* Native to South & Central America | *Fun Facts:* A flowering tree in the pea family, it is valued for its attractive foliage and showy year-round flowers.



Tabebuia heterophylla
Family name: Bignoniaceae | *Local name:* White Cedar, Pòwyé Senk-Fèy | *Range:* Native to the West Indies | *Fun Facts:* A very hardy and low maintenance tree, the White cedar can be seen in all over the island, especially in coastal areas. It produces attractive pink flowers.



Spathodea campanulata
Family name: Bignoniaceae | *Local name:* African Tulip, Pipee Tree, Flame-of-the-Forest | *Range:* Native to tropical dry forests of Africa. Introduced worldwide | *Fun Facts:* Considered among the most invasive species in the world, the Spathodea was introduced for its ornamental value, due to its bright, showy flowers.



Cananga odorata
Family name: Annonaceae | *Local name:* Ylang Ylang | *Range:* Native to Southeast Asia | *Fun Facts:* Used as a shade tree on coffee and cocoa plantations, the Pois doux is also nitrogen fixing benefiting any plants closely surrounding it.



Solanum torvum
Family name: Solanaceae | *Local name:* Wild eggplant, bâtard belagien, balengène | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas but also prevalent in tropical regions around the world. | *Fun Facts:* Spreads rapidly on disturbed lands, the fruit is eaten in various cuisines. It is high in iron and also contains medicinal properties. It is also used Haitian voodoo rituals.



Phoradendron trinervium
Family name: Viscaceae | *Local name:* Mistletoe, Angled Mistletoe | *Range:* Native to tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* A parasitic plant, the mistletoe obtains minerals and water from its host plant.



Anthurium grandifolium
Family name: Araceae | *Local name:* Elephant's Ears, Wild Anthirium | *Range:* Native to Lesser Antilles | *Fun Facts:* Grows in the wild and is found in dry coastal forests as well as rainforests. Unlike the colourful anthurium, the inflorescence of the Grandifolium is a lot more subtle.



Stachytarpheta jamaicensis
Family name: Verbenaceae | *Local name:* Venven, Jamaican vervain | *Range:* Native to Caribbean | *Fun Facts:* Used in traditional medicine to treat and control blood pressure & blood sugar levels, Venven is also known to induce miscarriages.



Piper amalago
Family name: Piperaceae | *Local name:* Mal Estomac | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* Known to have various medicinal properties. It can be used to treat pimples.



Coilostylis ciliaris
Family name: Orchidaceae | *Local name:* Eye lash Orchid, Fringed Star Orchid | *Range:* Native to the Caribbean | *Fun Facts:* Pollinated by the moth Pseudosphinx tetrio or frangipani hornworm.



Dioscorea alata
Family name: Dioscoreaceae | *Local name:* White yam, Purple yam | *Range:* Native to Asia | *Fun Facts:* Brought over to Dominica during the African slave trade, the white yam appears purple or white and can grow wild. While its tubers are a staple food, it is also attractive as an ornamental plant.



Odontonema nitidum
Family name: Acanthaceae | *Local name:* Zye Kwab, Bwa crapaud | *Range:* Native to West Indies | *Fun Facts:* A common evergreen found in forests around the island, the bark of the Zye Kwab is used in local medicine to treat fresh cuts.



Consolea sp.
Family name: Cactaceae | *Local name:* Cactus | *Range:* Native to Caribbean and Florida | *Fun Facts:* Consolea contains 10 recognized species found in the Caribbean. They thrive in arid regions of the island. The spines of the cacti are modified leaves which help to protect against water loss and defending against predators.



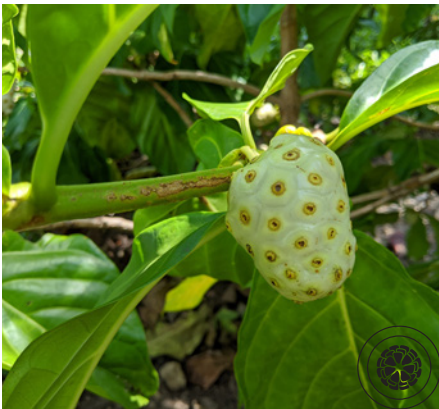
Agave sp.
Family name: Asparagaceae | *Local name:* Agave | *Range:* Native to Tropical and Arid Americas | *Fun Facts:* Agave are succulents just like most cacti and aloe, although not related to either of them. They grow wild along the cliffs and dry areas of the west coast. The flowers, leaves, stalks and rosettes are edible.



Aloe vera
Family name: Xanthorrhoeaceae | *Local name:* Aloe | *Range:* Widely cultivated worldwide | *Fun Facts:* Used as an ornamental plant, in cosmetics and in alternative medicine. The Aloe is locally used against sunburns and as a juice to aid in digestion.



Genipa americana
Family name: Rubiaceae | *Local name:* Genip, Genip, Marmalade Box | *Range:* Native to South & Central America and the Caribbean | *Fun Facts:* The edible fruit is prepared in a variety of ways, but if the juice is left to oxidize, it will permanently stain the skin black.



Morinda citrifolia
Family name: Rubiaceae | *Local name:* Wild eggplant, Cheese Fruit, Kòwòsòl Zonbi, Pain Killer, Pangkila, Noni | *Range:* Native to Southeast Asia and Australia | *Fun Facts:* Belongs to the same family as coffee, the leaves, fruit and roots are supposed to have health benefits. The bark produces a brown-purplish dye.



Vangueria madagascariensis
Family name: Rubiaceae | *Local name:* Tamarind des Indes, Tamawen dézenn | *Range:* Native to African continent | *Fun Facts:* Produces a large brown/ orange edible fruit with chocolate like flavour.



Spondias dulcis
Family name: Anacardiaceae | *Local name:* Golden Apple, Pomme-Cythere; Pom-sitè | *Range:* Native to Polynesia and Melanesia, introduced to tropical areas around the world | *Fun Facts:* Can be eaten raw but locally is usually consumed as a juice.



Artocarpus altilis
Family name: Moraceae | *Local name:* Breadfruit | *Range:* Native to South Pacific | *Fun Facts:* To eat breadfruit, it is boiled, roasted or fried. Locally, it is eaten in salads, stews or with saltfish.



Melicoccus bijugatus
Family name: Sapindaceae | *Local name:* Kennip, Chennèt | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* The fruit is opened by biting the skin and sucking on the seed inside. The juice of the fruit stains and was used by Amerindians as a dye.



Coffea arabica
Family name: Rubiaceae | *Local name:* Arabica Coffee | *Range:* Native to Yemen and Ethiopia | *Fun Facts:* Coffee in Dominica used to be solely cultivated by the French during the European colonization of the island.



Theobroma cacao
Family name: Sterculiaceae | *Local name:* Cocoa tree, Kako | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* The seed of the cocoa pod can be sucked raw, but to make cocoa or chocolate as we know it, they must first be roasted. Popular use in Dominica is in the form of Cocoa tea which is boiled and combined with sugar, milk, coconut cream, spices and/or taloma.



Mangifera indica
Family name: Anacardiaceae | *Local name:* Mango | *Range:* Native to India and Pakistan | *Fun Facts:* There are several varieties of mango consumed locally. They are usually eaten raw but can be made into juice and chutney.



Tamarindus indica
Family name: Caesalpinaceae | *Local name:* Tamarind, Tamawen | *Range:* Native to Tropical Africa | *Fun Facts:* Locally, Tamarind is boiled with sugar and made into a juice or a treat known as Tamarind Balls.



Annona muricata
Family name: Annonaceae | *Local name:* Soursop, Kòwòsòl | *Range:* Native to Caribbean and Central America | *Fun Facts:* Soursop grows well in the dry coastal areas of Dominica. The pulp is consumed fresh or blended to make juice.



Annona squamosa
Family name: Annonaceae | *Local name:* Sugar apple or sweetsops | *Range:* Native to Caribbean and Central America | *Fun Facts:* The fruit is consumed by eating the sweet pulp. In traditional medicine, the leaves are used in a decoction to treat dysentery and urinary tract infection.



Psidium guajava

Family name: Myrtaceae | *Local name:* Guava, Gwiyav | *Range:* Tropical and Subtropical regions | *Fun Facts:* Found all over the island, the guava is used in many ways. In traditional medicine, all parts of the plant aid in various ailments. The fruit is eaten either ripe or unripe and is used to make jams, juice and other treats.



Syzygium malaccense

Family name: Myrtaceae | *Local name:* Pommerak | *Range:* Native to Malaysia | *Fun Facts:* Produces a vibrant pink/purple flower. The dark red fruit is consumed raw or made into jams. The fruit is popular with fruit bats and birds.



Syzygium jambos

Family name: Myrtaceae | *Local name:* Pomme Rose, Rose Apple, Plum Rose | *Range:* Native to Southeast Asia | *Fun Facts:* Used similarly to the Pommerak, the rose apple is not as vibrant and the fruit is tarter.



Passiflora laurifolia & edulis

Family name: Passifloraceae | *Local name:* Pomme de liane | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* Produces edible fruit from the passionfruit family. Eaten fresh or made into juice and jams.



Hibiscus

Family name: Malvaceae | *Local name:* Hibiscus | *Range:* Native to Tropical and Subtropical Regions around the world | *Fun Facts:* Although used in landscaping for its showy flowers, the hibiscus is known to have various medicinal properties. Locally the leaves of the hibiscus can be ground up and used as a shampoo.



Heliconia caribaea

Family name: Heliconiaceae | *Local name:* Heliconia | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* Hummingbirds and some bats feed on the nectar and help to pollinate the plant.



Averrhoa carambola

Family name: Oxalidaceae | *Local name:* Carambola, Five Fingers, Star Fruit | *Range:* Native to Southeast Asia | *Fun Facts:* The fruit is consumed fresh or made into a juice and jams. It is also used in salads.



Cocos nucifera

Family name: Palmae | *Local name:* Coconut | *Range:* Native to Tropical Regions | *Fun Facts:* Coconut water is a refreshing drink obtained from a young drupe. It can be used as a chaser to rum or whiskey or as a hangover cure. Coconut milk is obtained from the meat of an older drupe and is used in curries and treats such as coconut cheese and tablet.



Persea americana

Family name: Lauraceae | *Local name:* Avocado, Zaboka, Pear | *Range:* Native to Mexico and Central America | *Fun Facts:* Consumed in salads, drinks or as a spread, during Independence, zaboka is combined farine (cassava flour) to make farine balls.



Bougainvillea

Family name: Nyctaginaceae | *Local name:* Bougainvillea | *Range:* Native to South America | *Fun Facts:* The bougainvillea, known for its bright colours can grow as a vine, shrub or tree. The flower itself is small and usually white, but the assortment of colours associated with the plant are in fact bracts, which is a specialized leaf.



Ixora coccinea

Family name: Rubiaceae | *Local name:* Ixora, star flower, flame of the woods | *Range:* Native to Pacific | *Fun Facts:* One of the most popularly used plants in landscaping. Flowers year-round.



Caesalpinia pulcherrima

Family name: Fabaceae | *Local name:* Pride of Barbados, Red Bird of Paradise | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* An ornamental plant used in landscaping.



Allamanda cathartica
Family name: Apocynaceae | *Local name:* Allamanda | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* An ornamental plant commonly used in landscaping. The flowers are either yellow or pink and can grow as a shrub or vine.



Nerium oleander
Family name: Apocynaceae | *Local name:* Oleander | *Range:* Widely cultivated | *Fun Facts:* A popular shrub to use in landscaping due to its colourful flowers year-round. However, it is a very toxic plant to humans and other animals.



Plumeria
Family name: Apocynaceae | *Local name:* Frangipani | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* Related to the Oleander, most species are deciduous shrubs or small trees. The flowers are most fragrant at night to lure hawk moths to pollinate them.



Dypsis lutescens
Family name: Arecaceae | *Local name:* Golden Palm, Bamboo Palm | *Range:* Native to Madagascar | *Fun Facts:* Naturalized in many tropical regions, it is grown as an ornamental plant in gardens in tropical/subtropical regions, and elsewhere can be used as an indoor houseplant.



Cymbopogon
Family name: Poaceae | *Local name:* Lemon grass | *Range:* Native to Pacific | *Fun Facts:* A grass cultivated for its culinary and medical uses. It contains the species citronella grass used to make citronella oil. Introduced to Dominica and is currently invasive.



Vetiveria zizanioides
Family name: Poaceae | *Local name:* Vetiver | *Range:* Native to Asia | *Fun Facts:* Has several uses, including erosion control and slope stabilization, and as thatch.



Tradescantia spathacea
Family name: Commelinaceae | *Local name:* Boatlily, Cradle of Moses | *Range:* Native to Central America | *Fun Facts:* An attractive foliage plant popular in landscaping.



Codiaeum variegatum
Family name: Euphorbiaceae | *Local name:* Croton | *Range:* Native to South Pacific | *Fun Facts:* An ornamental plant commonly used in landscaping, crotons are valued for their striking foliage. Often used to make hedges and potted patio specimens.



Bambusa vulgaris
Family name: Poaceae | *Local name:* Bamboo, common bamboo | *Range:* Native to China and Madagascar | *Fun Facts:* This “primitive” grass grows in large clumps and is widely used as an ornamental plant, often planted as fences and border hedges. It can also be used to aid control erosion.



Moringa oleifera
Family name: Moringaceae | *Local name:* Moringa | *Range:* Native to the Indian subcontinent | *Fun Facts:* A tree with many culinary uses and health benefits, its young pods, leaves, seeds and flowers are all edible. The bark, sap, & roots are also used in traditional medicine. It is even used in water purification.

FAUNA

An Island rich in natural beauty and with an abundant of undisturbed land, there are diverse groups of animals that happily thrive here.



There are about 188 species of avifauna who call Dominica home. Feeding on fruits, nectar, insects, crustaceans and fish, look for them on the seashore, in the trees, soaring through the sky or even bouncing off the balcony of your room. The birds found in and around Secret Bay nest here because the environment suits them and there is a rich food supply. The carolers of daytime, they will sing to you from sunrise to sundown, giving way to the night.



Denotes Rare Fauna at Secret Bay

Pelecanus occidentalis
Family name: Pelecanidae | *Local name:* Brown Pelican | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* The Pelecanus occidentalis is the state bird of Louisiana and the national bird of the Turks and Caicos (Pelecanus occidentalis).



Sterna maxima
Family name: Sternidae | *Local name:* Royal Tern | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* The Sterna maxima defecate on the rim of its nest in a shallow depression near the sea coast so that it will harden to prevent flooding (Royal Tern).



Sterna antillarum
Family name: Sternidae | *Local name:* Least Tern | *Status:* Common/Migrant | *Fun Facts:* The Sterna antillarum nests on sandy beaches making it a resident throughout many of the Caribbean islands (Least Tern).



Fregata magnificens
Family name: Fregatidae | *Local name:* Magnificent Frigate Bird | *Status:* Very common | *Fun Facts:* Charles Darwin named the Fregata magnificens “the condor of the ocean” due to its incredible wingspan. (Magnificent Frigatebird).



Egretta caerulea
Family name: Ardeidae | *Local name:* Little Blue Heron | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* This is the only species in its family that has two distinct color morphs for mature and immature birds. The mature bird is blue and the immature bird is white. (Egretta Caerulea).



Butorides virescens

Family name: Ardeidae | *Local name:* Green Heron | *Status:* Very common | *Fun Facts:* The Butorides virescens obtained its more commonly known name, Green Heron, for its green cap and back (Green Heron (Butorides virescens)).



Nyctanassa violacea

Family name: Ardeidae | *Local name:* Yellow Crowned Night Heron | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* During the breeding season, the Nyctanassa violecea grows long white feathers from the crown of its head. (Yellow-crowned Night-heron (Nyctanassa Violacea)).



Bubulcus ibis

Family name: Ardeidae | *Local name:* Cattle Egret | *Status:* Very common | *Fun Facts:* The Bubulcus ibis gets its common name, Cattle Egret, from habituating alongside herds of cattle (Cattle Egret (Bubulcus Ibis)).



Elaenia martinica

Family name: Tyrannidae | *Local name:* Caribbean Elaenia | *Status:* Very common | *Fun Facts:* When these birds get excited, they pull down their crown feathers to the side, revealing a white-yellow stripe in the middle. (Caribbean Elaenia).



Myiarchus oberi

Family name: Tyrannidae | *Local name:* Lesser Antillean Flycatcher | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* The Myiarchus oberi are commonly known as the Lesser Antillean Flycatcher for catching their prey while flying. (La Force, 2011).



Cinclocerthia ruficauda

Family name: Mimidae | *Local name:* Brown Trembler | *Status:* Very common | *Fun Facts:* The Cinclocerthia ruficauda obtained its commonly known name, Brown Trembler, from its color and by the drooping of its wings, followed by a strong trembling. (Bouglouan).



Egretta tricolor

Family name: Ardeidae | *Local name:* Tricolored Heron | *Status:* Not Common | *Fun Facts:* Wades through shallow coastal waters in search of food - primarily fish. But they also feed on insects, crustaceans, frogs, lizards and spiders. Their white strip down the neck and belly helps to idenify them.



Tyrannus dominicensis

Family name: Tyrannidae | *Local name:* Grey Kingbird | *Status:* Very common | *Fun Facts:* The Tyrannus dominicensis is a fearless bird, demonstrating aggressive and territorial behavior during the breeding season. (Johnson).



Quiscalus lugubris

Family name: Icteridae | *Local name:* Carib Grackle | *Status:* Very common | *Fun Facts:* The Carib Grackle enjoys human company and for this reason, is often found at touristic hotels. (Quiscalus lugubris).



Margarops fuscatus

Family name: Mimidae | *Local name:* Pearly-Eyed Thrasher | *Status:* Fairly common | *Fun Facts:* Found on many of the Caribbean islands, the Pearly-eyed Thrasher is known to nest in bushes, trees and coffee plantations. An aggressive omnivore, it's diet ranges from berries to small crabs and other birds nestlings.



Allenia fusca

Family name: Mimidae | *Local name:* Scaly-Breasted Thrasher | *Status:* Fairly Common | *Fun Facts:* Native to the Lesser Antilles, this species can be distinguished from similarly shaped and colored Pearly-eyed Thrasher by its short dark bill and barred, not streaked, underparts.



Turdus plumbeus

Family name: Turdidae | *Local name:* Red-Legged Thrush | *Status:* Fairly common | *Fun Facts:* The Red-Legged Thrush can be considered as the Caribbean's equivalent to the American Robin, as they share many similar habits.



Vireo altiloquus
Family name: Vireonidae | *Local name:* Black-Whiskered Vireo | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* Found in the Tropical Americas, this is the Caribbean version of the American songbird, the Red-eyed Vireo. (Kaufman).



Saltator albicollis
Family name: Thraupidae | *Local name:* Lesser Antillean Saltator | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* There are two different subspecies of the Lesser Antillean Saltator, the Guadelupensis found in Guadeloupe and Dominica, and the Albicollis in Martinique and St. Lucia (Lesser Antillean Saltator).



Coereba flaveola
Family name: Thraupidae | *Local name:* Bananaquit | *Status:* Very common | *Fun Facts:* Found throughout the Caribbean, the Bananaquit feeds on nectar as well as the juices of sweet fruits. It is part of the group of birds Tiaris (grassquits) which are otherwise known as Darwin’s finches. (Bananaquit)



Eulampis holosericeus
Family name: Trochilidae | *Local name:* Green-Throated Carib | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* A visually striking bird, the Green-Throated Carib is the largest hummingbirds in the Lesser Antilles. (Eulampis holosericeus).



Eulampis jugularis
Family name: Trochilidae | *Local name:* Purple-Throated Carib | *Status:* Fairly common | *Fun Facts:* Endemic to the Lesser Antilles, the Purple-Throated Carib is named for the distinctive purple patch on its throat and chest. (Johnson).



Orthorhyncus cristatus
Family name: Trochilidae | *Local name:* Antillean Crested Hummingbird | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* Found throughout the Lesser Antilles, the Antillean Crested Hummingbird is one of the few hummingbirds to have a crest - which is used for display purposes. (Orthorhyncus critatus).



Tiaris bicolor
Family name: Thraupidae | *Local name:* Black-faced Grassquit | *Status:* Very common | *Fun Facts:* The Black Faced Grassquit is a close relative of Darwin’s finches (Black-faced Grassquit). At a glance, they can be mistaken for a female Lesser Antillean Bullfinch.



Loxigilla noctis
Family name: Thraupidae | *Local name:* Lesser Antillean Bullfinch | *Status:* Very common | *Fun Facts:* A common bird throughout the Lesser Antilles, male plumage is black with a reddish throat and lores, whereas the female is a warm grey with reddish-brown wings. (Lesser Antillean Bullfinch).



Setophaga petechia
Family name: Parulidae | *Local name:* Yellow Warbler | *Status:* Very common | *Fun Facts:* A small bird, the Yellow Warbler’s range extends from North America to northern South America.



Zenaida aurita
Family name: Columbidae | *Local name:* Zenaida Dove | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* Similar to the Mourning Dove of North & Central America, the Zenaida Dove prevalent in the Lesser Antilles, is commonly but incorrectly referred to as a Turtle Dove. It is Anguilla’s national bird (Hunter, 2013).



Patagioenas squamosa
Family name: Columbidae | *Local name:* Scaly-Naped Pigeon | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* Found throughout the Caribbean, the Scaly-Naped Pigeon is named for its maroon coloured scaly-like plumage around its neck. (The Scaly-naped Pigeon).



Columbina passerina
Family name: Columbidae | *Local name:* Common Ground Dove | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* Widespread throughout the tropical Americas, the Common Ground-Dove consumes over 2,500 seeds a day to meet its body’s energy demands (Common Ground-Dove).



Coccyzus minor
Family name: Cuculidae | *Local name:* Mangrove Cuckoo | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* The Mangrove Cuckoo has four toes, two forward and two backwards, as opposed to the more standard three forward and one backward toe arrangement. (Mangrove Cuckoo).



Coccyzus americanus
Family name: Cuculidae | *Local name:* Yellow-billed Cuckoo | *Status:* Common winter migrant | *Fun Facts:* If their nests are threatened by a predator, the yellow-billed cuckoo will create a distraction whereby one bird will lure the predator away, while the other bird remains to ensure the nest’s safety. (Yellow-billed Cuckoo).



Chaetura martinica
Family name: Apodidae | *Local name:* Lesser Antillean Swift | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* A highly aerial bird, the Lesser Antillean Swift is native to the Lesser Antillean Island’s of Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent.(Lesser Antillean Swift).



Pandion haliaetus
Family name: Pandionidae | *Local name:* Osprey, Fish Hawk | *Status:* Not Common | *Fun Facts:* This is a large raptor which tolerates a range of habitats, nesting near a body of water. They feed primarily on fish.



Calidris minutilla
Family name: Scolopacidae | *Local name:* Least Sandpiper | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* The Calidris minutilla have a high-pitched songlike call made by the males on breeding grounds (Least Sandpiper).



Crotophaga ani
Family name: Cuculidae | *Local name:* Smooth-Billed Ani | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* A ground feeder native to the tropical Americas, one member of a group of Smooth-Billed Ani will serve as a lookout for predators, while the other members of this species forage for food. (Smoothbilled Ani).



Tyto alba
Family name: Tytonidae | *Local name:* Barn Owl | *Status:* Fairly common | *Fun Facts:* Barn Owls eat their prey whole and then cough up pellets instead of passing the remains through their excretory system. (Barn Owl).



Buteo platypterus
Family name: Accipitridae | *Local name:* Broad-Winged Hawk, Mal-fini | *Status:* Common | *Fun Facts:* The Broad-Winged Hawk migrates in large flocks, known as a “kettle”. Their local name “mal-fini” translates to “bad finish”. (Broad-winged Hawk).



Decapods crustaceans can be found in the sea, freshwater and on land. These creatures have 10 limbs (claws included) and usually walk sideways. Preferring to hunt and scavenge at night or in the shade, crabs avoid the sun to prevent from drying out. During the island’s independence, when hunting season for crabs is open, crab backs and crab callaloo is a popular dish eaten.

Coenobita clypeatus
Family name: Coenobitidae | *Local name:* Solda, Caribbean Hermit Crab | *Range:* Tropical islands | *Habitat:* Coastal areas | *Fun Facts:* The Hermit Crab wears a variety of shells, the most common being the shell of the West Indian Top Snail. (Solda)



Gecarcinus ruricola
Family name: Gecarcinidae | *Local name:* Kwab, Black Land Crab, Zombie Crab | *Range:* Caribbean | *Habitat:* From coastal areas to high altitudes. | *Fun Facts:* These omnivorous scavengers can live far from the sea and at high altitudes. After mating, a mass migration of females returns to the sea to release their fertilized eggs. (Kwab)



Cardisoma guanhumi
Family name: Gecarcinidae | *Local name:* Blue Land Crab, Kobo | *Range:* Americas | *Habitat:* Burrows in coastal areas and estuaries | *Fun Facts:* Able to reach sizes of 35cm/14in, these slow-growing crabs require more than 60 molts, which are about 3 times more than other species of crab. (Kobo)



Ocypode quadrata
Family name: Ocypodidae | *Local name:* Atlantic Ghost Crab, Touloulou Blan | *Range:* Americas | *Habitat:* Beaches | *Fun Facts:* These crabs burrow in the sand of beaches just above the high water mark. Compound eyes allow for 360° vision. (Touloulou Blan)



Grapsus grapsus
Family name: Grapsidae | *Local name:* Red-Foot Crab | *Range:* Pacific and Atlantic coasts South America | *Habitat:* Lives amongst rocks above the limit of sea spray | *Fun Facts:* Feed on algae, plant matter and dead animals, not considered very edible, and are used as bait by fishermen.



Guidonia dentata
Family name: Pseudothelphusidae | *Local name:* Cyrique, fresh water crab, | *Range:* Lesser Antilles | *Habitat:* Lives mostly in streams | *Fun Facts:* The females are protective of their eggs and young. After hatching, the juveniles remain with their mother for some time.



Dominica has the privilege of being one of the few caribbean islands to retain its original amphibian and reptilian fauna over the last couple of centuries. There are 7 species of reptiles known to exist and 4 of amphibians, none of which are poisonous. Reptiles differ from amphibians in that they lack an aquatic larval stage, and amphibians tend to be found near a source of water.

Liophis juliae

Family name: Colubridae | *Local name:* Julia’s ground snake | *Range:* Endemic to Dominica & Guadeloupe | *Habitat:* Lives in burrows or natural shelters and is found all over the island, except the highest elevations. | *Fun Facts:* TL.j.juliae is endemic to Dominica, and if provoked releases a foul smelling odor.



Boa constrictor (nebulosa)

Family name: Boidae | *Local name:* Boa, Dominican Clouded Boa | *Range:* Caribbean and Tropical Americas | *Habitat:* Lives in burrows, prefers to live in the rainforests. | *Fun Facts:* It can reach lengths of 3-13 ft; females are the larger of the two sexes. Nocturnal creatures, they feed on small mammals and birds.



Alsophis antillensis

Family name: Colubridae | *Local name:* Racer Snake, kouwes zega | *Range:* Endemic sub-species to Lesser Antilles | *Habitat:* Found all over the island, except high elevations. | *Fun Facts:* It can reach a meter in length and feeds on lizards and small rodents; the Dominican population is considered an endemic subspecies and very rare. (Kouwes)



Ameiva fuscata

Family name: Teiidae | *Local name:* Ground lizard, Abòlò | *Range:* Endemic to Dominica | *Habitat:* Scrub woodland and rainforests. Look for them on the ground. | *Fun Facts:* These omnivorous foragers are usually seen during the hottest part of the day. Traditionally used by the indigenous Kalinago people in a stew to remedy certain illnesses. (Abolo)



Hemidactylus mabouia

Family name: Gekkonidae | *Local name:* House Gecko, Mabouya | *Range:* Caribbean and Americas | *Fun Facts:* Nocturnal lizards, the Mabouya are usually found in urban environments and often seen near light fixtures where they can catch the variety of insects attracted to the light. (Mabouya)



Iguana delicatissima

Family name: Iguanidae | *Local name:* Lesser Antillean Iguana, Leza | *Range:* Endemic to Lesser Antilles | *Habitat:* Scrub woodland, rainforests and swamps. Look for them on branches, rocks and cliffs. | *Fun Facts:* An endangered species, Delicatissima is found on the IUCN Red List and legally protected from hunting. (Iguana)



Anolis oculatus

Family name: Dactyloidae | *Local name:* Dominican Anole, Zandoli or Tree lizard | *Range:* Endemic to Dominica | *Fun Facts:* Found in most environments around the island, a Zandoli present in the home was considered by the Kalinago as a good sign. The throat fan of a male is bright yellow or orange and used for sexual or territorial purposes. (Zandoli)



Dominica has the privilege of being one of the few caribbean islands to retain its original amphibian and reptilian fauna over the last couple of centuries. There are 7 species of reptiles known to exist and 4 of amphibians, none of which are poisonous. Reptiles differ from amphibians in that they lack an aquatic larval stage, and amphibians tend to be found near a source of water.

Eleutherodactylus johnstonei

Family name: Eleutherodactylidae | *Local name:* Antilles coqui, Whistling Frog | *Range:* Endemic to Lesser Antilles | *Fun Facts:* Widespread and like the Tink Frog, lives in most forest ranges across the island.



Thecadactylus rapicauda

Family name: Eleutherodactylidae | *Local name:* Tree Gecko | *Range:* Endemic to Lesser Antilles | *Fun Facts:* As with all Eleutherodactylus, there is no tadpole stage. Instead, eggs develop directly into small froglets.



Eleutherodactylus martinicensis

Family name: Eleutherodactylidae | *Local name:* Tink Frog, Gounouj | *Range:* Endemic to Lesser Antilles | *Fun Facts:* As with all Eleutherodactylus, there is no tadpole stage. Instead, eggs develop directly into small froglets.



Mabuya mabouya

Family name: Scincidae | *Local name:* Skink | *Range:* Endemic to Lesser Antilles | *Fun Facts:* Although found on other islands, it is most widespread on Dominica in coastal regions and cultivated areas in higher elevations.



Dominica is home to a wide variety of insects including 11 species of stick insects and 55 species of butterfly, two of which are endemic to the island. Insects may be at times a nuisance and unsettling to those unaccustomed, but each plays a role in its environment. Whether the predator or prey, the pollinator or scavenger, they add to the biodiversity of Secret Bay and where birds are the musicians of daytime, insects make up an orchestra of the night.

Junonia coenia

Family name: Nymphalidae | *Local name:* Caribbean Buckeye | *Habitat:* Open areas with low vegetation and bare ground | *Fun Facts:* Eyespots serve to startle or distract predators, especially young birds.



Battus polydamas

Family name: Nymphalidae | *Local name:* Polydamas Swallowtail | *Habitat:* Open areas with low vegetation and bare ground. | *Fun Facts:* In the tropics, this butterfly flies throughout the year in several generations.



Phoebis sennae

Family name: Nymphalidae | *Local name:* Cloudless Sulphur | *Habitat:* Open spaces with low vegetation and bare ground | *Fun Facts:* Lives in a wide range, from Canada to South America.



Dryas iulia

Family name: Nymphalidae | *Local name:* Flambeau, Julia Butterfly | *Habitat:* Open spaces, clearings and paths | *Fun Facts:* The caterpillar feeds on the passionfruit vines. As a butterfly, it is active throughout the day and long-lived, making it a popular choice for butterfly houses.



Ascia monuste

Family name: Nymphalidae | *Local name:* Great Southern White | *Habitat:* Open spaces with low vegetation and bare ground. | *Fun Facts:* This is migrating species travels during its lifetime in one direction and never returns.



Anartia jatrophae

Family name: Nymphalidae | *Local name:* White Peacock | *Habitat:* Open areas with low vegetation and bare ground | *Fun Facts:* The males are territorial. They are aggressive towards other insects and White Peacock males in an area typically 15 meters in diameter that contains larval host plants.



Agraulis vanillae

Family name: Nymphalidae | *Local name:* Gulf Fritillary | *Habitat:* Open areas with low vegetation and bare ground | *Fun Facts:* This butterfly is known to migrate over the Gulf of Mexico, which is how it got its common name.



Memphis dominicana
Family name: Nymphalidae | *Local name:* Godman’s Leaf, Dominican leafwing Dead leaf | *Habitat:* Open areas with low vegetation and bare ground | *Fun Facts:* Endemic to the lesser Antilles. It’s entire body mimics a dead leaf when it lands. It can be observed year round.



Danaus plexippus
Family name: Nymphalidae | *Local name:* Monarch Butterfly | *Habitat:* Open areas with low vegetation and bare ground | *Fun Facts:* A migratory butterfly, Monarchs were transported to the International Space Station and bred there.



Tettigoniidae
Common name: Katydids, bush crickets, long-horned Grasshopper | *Habitat:* Open areas with low vegetation and bare ground | *Fun Facts:* These nocturnal plant-eaters are sometimes mistaken for true grasshoppers which have much shorter antennae. Resembling leaves to avoid predation, the katydid generates continuous songs known as trills.



Dynastes hercules
Family name: Scarabaeidae | *Local name:* Hercules Beetle | *Habitat:* Open areas with low vegetation and bare ground | *Fun Facts:* Native to the rainforest’s of the Tropical Americas, this is the largest of its species. The larval stage lasts for about 1 - 2 years tunneling through rotting wood.



There are very few native mammals found on the island, but there are 10 species of bats. Bats use echolocation, which allows them to navigate and forage in the dark, living on a diet of fruit, nectar, insects, and fish. In some villages on the island, bats, agouti, and even manicou are eaten.

Dasypsecta leporina
Family name: Dasypsectidae | *Local name:* Agouti, Red-rumped Agouti | *Range:* South America, Caribbean | *Fun Facts:* A known seed disperser, the Agouti is very shy and lives in burrows among tree roots and in the ground.



Didelphis marsupialis
Family name: Didelphidae | *Local name:* Manicou, Common opossum | *Range:* Central & South America, Lesser Antilles | *Fun Facts:* Nocturnal creatures, the Manicou eat a wide variety of foods and live for about 2 - 3 years.



Brachyphylla cavernarum
Family name: Phyllostomidae | *Local name:* Antillean fruit-eating bat, Antillean cave bat | *Range:* Native to Caribbean | *Fun Facts:* The Antillean cave bat will, as a group, leave its roost one hour after sunset and return just before dawn.



Sturnira lilium
Family name: Phyllostomidae | *Local name:* Little yellow-shouldered bat | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* This bat is a frugivore, which means its preferred food source is fruit. As with all frugivores, they are important fruit dispersers.



Monophyllus plethodon
Family name: Phyllostomidae | *Local name:* Lesser Antillean Long-Tongued Bat, Insular single leaf bat | *Range:* Native to Lesser Antillies | *Fun Facts:* The Long-tongued Bat is part of a family of bats known as New World Leaf-nosed bats found throughout the Tropical Americas.



Pteronotus davyi
Family name: Mormoopidae | *Local name:* Davy's naked-backed bat | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* A small cave-dwelling and insect-eating bat



Artibeus jamaicensis
Family name: Phyllostomidae | *Local name:* Jamaican Fruit-Eating Bat | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* Common within the bat cave at Secret Bay.



Tadarida brasiliensis
Family name: Molossidae | *Local name:* Mexican free-tailed bat, Brazilian free-tailed bat | *Range:* Native to Americas | *Fun Facts:* These insectivore bats roost in large groups found primarily in caves, but will also inhabit buildings and hollow trees.



Noctilio leporinus
Family name: Noctilionidae | *Local name:* Mexican Bulldog, Greater bulldog bat, Fisherman Bat | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* This fish-eating bat is able to catch its prey by detecting water ripples they make using echolocation.



Molossus molossus
Family name: Molossidae | *Local name:* Velvety free-tailed bat, Pallas's mastiff bat | *Range:* Native to Tropical Americas | *Fun Facts:* This long-tailed bat can be seen at dusk, flying through the air as it feeds on moths, beetles and flying ants.



Ardops nicholli
Family name: Phyllostomidae | *Local name:* Lesser Antillean Tree Bat | *Range:* Native to Lesser Antillies | *Fun Facts:* Resides amongst the branches of trees; the Tree bat is the only member of the genus Ardops.

MARINE LIFE

Rich and diverse, the marine life in the waters around Secret Bay flourishes. With so many species of fish, sea creatures and coral, there is no telling what treats awaits the underwater explorer.



Fish play such a vital role in their ecosystem and getting to know them allows us to understand their relationship to their biological communities.

Scarus taeniopterus
Family name: Scaridae | *Local name:* Princess Parrotfish (Adult) | *Size:* 12 in | *Habitat:* Grazing on reef structure | *Fun Facts:* Princess Parrotfish are named for their very strong beak-like mouth, which is used to grind up coral.



Scarus taeniopterus
Family name: Scaridae | *Local name:* Princess Parrotfish (Intermediate) | *Habitat:* Grazing on reef structure | *Fun Facts:* As is common with parrotfish, the initial features are nowhere near as beautiful as those developed in the adult phase.



Sparisoma viride
Family name: Scaridae | *Local name:* Stoplight Parrotfish (Adult) | *Size:* 2 ft | *Habitat:* Grazing on reef structure | *Fun Facts:* Named for the bright yellow spot on mature males.



Sparisoma viride
Family name: Scaridae | *Local name:* Stoplight Parrotfish (Initial Phase) | *Size:* 10 in | *Habitat:* Grazing on reef structure | *Fun Facts:* Young Stoplight Parrotfish have a completely different colouration from those in the Adult phase.



Sparisoma aurofrenatum
Family name: Scaridae | *Local name:* Redband Parrotfish | *Size:* 10 in | *Habitat:* Grazing on reef structure | *Fun Facts:* Scraps chunks out of the coral and processes it into sand! Parrotfish create much of the worlds beaches.



Clepticus parrae
Family name: Labridae | *Local name:* Creole Wrasse | *Size:* 8 in | *Habitat:* Mid Water | *Fun Facts:* The wrasse changes colour during its lifetime. In this photo the Creole Wrasse is being cleaned by a Juvenile Spanish Hogfish.



Thalassoma bifasciatum
Family name: Labridae | *Local name:* Bluehead Wrasse (Male) | *Size:* 4 in | *Habitat:* Close to the reef | *Fun Facts:* Seen here is the male bluehead wrasse surrounded by lots of females. They are eating damselfish eggs.



Halichoeres garnoti
Family name: Labridae | *Local name:* Yellowhead Wrasse | *Size:* 6 in | *Habitat:* Reef top | *Fun Facts:* Fast swimmers that seldom stay still.



Apogon maculatus
Family name: Apogonidae | *Local name:* Flame Fish | *Size:* 2 in | *Habitat:* Dark recesses of the reef | *Fun Facts:* Forage at night.



Priacanthus cruentatus
Family name: Priacanthidae | *Local name:* Glass Eye Snapper | *Size:* 10 in | *Habitat:* Hide in dark recesses | *Fun Facts:* Will retreat and hide when it sees snorkelers.



Ocyurus chrysurus
Family name: Lutjanidae | *Local name:* Yellowtail Snapper | *Size:* 2 ft | *Habitat:* Pelagic swimmer | *Fun Facts:* Swims either alone or in loose schools.



Stegastes partitus
Family name: Pomacentridae | *Local name:* Bi colour damselfish | *Size:* 3 in | *Habitat:* On the reefs | *Fun Facts:* Very territorial and will nip divers and swimmers who come too close.



Microspathodon chrysurus
Family name: Pomacentridae | *Local name:* Yellowtail Damsel (Intermediate) | *Habitat:* Hiding on the reef | *Fun Facts:* Juveniles have beautiful cobalt blue spots on a dark blue background.



Microspathodon chrysurus
Family name: Pomacentridae | *Local name:* Yellowtail Damsel (Adult) | *Size:* 3 in | *Habitat:* Hiding on the reef | *Fun Facts:* The characteristic yellow tail on the adult sets it apart from other Damsels.



Chromis multilineata
Family name: Pomacentridae | *Local name:* Brown Chromis | *Size:* 3 in | *Habitat:* Mid water | *Fun Facts:* The most common filter-feeder in Dominica and it is the preferred prey of Lionfish.



Pseudupeneus maculatus
Family name: Mullidae | *Local name:* Yellow Goatfish | *Size:* 8 in | *Habitat:* Grazing over sandy bottom | *Fun Facts:* Uses two barbels to search for small prey in the sand or rubble.



Pempheris schomburgki
Family name: Pempheridae | *Local name:* Glassy Sweepers | *Size:* 4 in | *Habitat:* Dark caves | *Fun Facts:* This is a rarely seen fish but is quite common in the Secret Bay area. Look under the arch and by the bat cave.



Atherinidae
Family name: Atherinidae | *Local name:* Silversides | *Size:* 1 in | *Habitat:* Very dense schools under the ledges | *Fun Facts:* Quite prevalent around Secret Bay, seen swimming between the reefs.



Haemulon
Family name: Haemulidae | *Local name:* Grunt Juvenile | *Size:* 1 in | *Habitat:* Close to reefs | *Fun Facts:* Common in the Secret Bay area, many seen around the outer rocks.



Haemulon flavolineatum
Family name: Haemulidae | *Local name:* French Grunt | *Size:* 8 in | *Habitat:* In schools usually in the shade of reefs | *Fun Facts:* Very shy and difficult to approach. Here seen with a parasitic isopod attached.



Equetus lanceolatus
Family name: Sciaenidae | *Local name:* Jack-knife fish (Juvenile) | *Size:* 4 in | *Habitat:* Overhangs and under coral | *Fun Facts:* Can often be seen in the sand under ledges along the reefs edge.



Equetus punctatus
Family name: Sciaenidae | *Local name:* Spotted Drum (Juvenile) | *Size:* 2 in | *Habitat:* Reef | *Fun Facts:* Beautiful flowing dorsal fin and tail.



Equetus punctatus
Family name: Sciaenidae | *Local name:* Spotted Drum (Adult) | *Size:* 8 in | *Habitat:* Reef | *Fun Facts:* Hide in secluded areas but come out to feed at night.



Haemulon chrysargyreum
Family name: Haemulidae | *Local name:* Small Mouth Grunt | *Size:* 8 in | *Habitat:* Schools usually in the shade of reefs. | *Fun Facts:* Very shy and difficult to approach.



Gramma loreto
Family name: Grammatidae | *Local name:* Fairy Basslet | *Size:* 2 in | *Habitat:* Under dark ledges | *Fun Facts:* They wait quietly and then pop out from the dark areas.



Bodianus rufus
Family name: Labridae | *Local name:* Spanish Hogfish | *Size:* 12 in | *Habitat:* Close to the reef | *Fun Facts:* Juveniles act as cleaner fish and can often be seen cleaning other fish.



Myripristis jacobus
Family name: Holocentridae | *Local name:* BlackBar Soldierfish | *Size:* 5 in | *Habitat:* Dark recesses of reef | *Fun Facts:* A nocturnal fish that leaves the safety of the reef only at night.



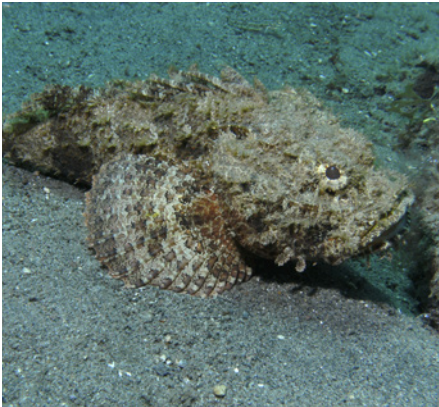
Epinephelus guttatus
Family name: Serranidae | *Local name:* Red Hind | *Size:* 12 in | *Habitat:* Rest on reef on pectoral fins | *Fun Facts:* Very shy and swims to the nearest hiding hole when approached.



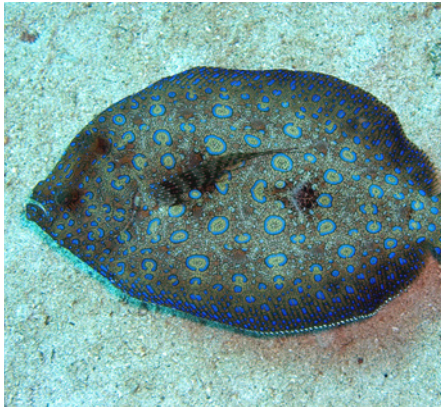
Amblycirrhitus pinos
Family name: Cirrhitidae | *Local name:* Red Spotted Hawkfish | *Size:* 2 in | *Habitat:* Perch on the reef | *Fun Facts:* Will move to a new area if threatened, but usually not very far away.



Serranus tigrinus
Family name: Serranidae | *Local name:* Harlequin bass | *Size:* 3 in | *Habitat:* Close to reef | *Fun Facts:* The smallest member of the bass family.



Scorpaena plumieri
Family name: Scorpaenidae | *Local name:* Spotted Scorpion fish | *Size:* 12 in | *Habitat:* Rests on bottom using camouflage to snap up prey. | *Fun Facts:* Produces a highly painful venom if stepped on. Treat with hot water immediately.



Bothus lunatus
Family name: Bothidae | *Local name:* Peacock Flounder, Plate fish | *Size:* 12 in | *Habitat:* Sandy bottom, blends in. | *Fun Facts:* Born with eyes on either side of its head, as it ages one eye migrates over until they have two eyes on the same side.



Acanthurus bahianus
Family name: Acanthuridae | *Local name:* Ocean surgeonfish | *Size:* 12 in | *Habitat:* Schooling algae-grazer on reef | *Fun Facts:* They are named for the scalpel-like fins visible on the tail, which they use in self-defense.



Acunthurus chirurgus
Family name: Acanthuridae | *Local name:* Doctor Fish | *Size:* 10 in | *Habitat:* Reef and sandy bottom | *Fun Facts:* They swim in schools that all stop together to graze a section of reef.



Chaetodon capistratus
Family name: Chaetodontidae | *Local name:* Foureye Butterflyfish | *Size:* 6 in | *Habitat:* Reef top | *Fun Facts:* They eat individual coral polyps with their long snout.



Synodus intermedius
Family name: Synodontidae | *Local name:* Sand Diver | *Size:* 12 in | *Habitat:* Seabed | *Fun Facts:* These are active predators waiting on the sand in ambush.



Diodon holocanthus
Family name: Diodontidae | *Local name:* Balloonfish, porcupinefish | *Size:* 12 in | *Habitat:* Hide in dark recesses or on grassy bottoms | *Fun Facts:* When under extreme stress, the Balloonfish will inflate itself, which is often fatal for them.



Lactophrys triqueter
Family name: Ostraciidae | *Local name:* Smooth Trunkfish | *Size:* 8 in | *Habitat:* Reef top | *Fun Facts:* Can be seen using their elongated mouth to blow water into crevices to flush out prey.



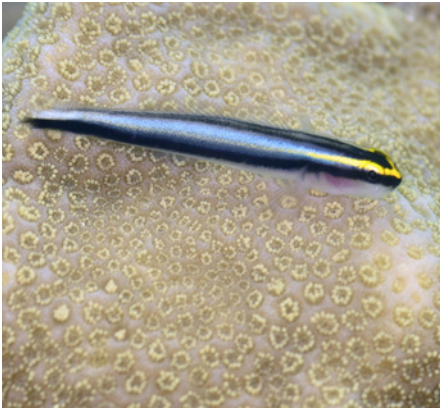
Chaetodon aculeatus
Family name: Chaetodontidae | *Local name:* Longsnout Butterflyfish | *Size:* 3 in | *Habitat:* Reef | *Fun Facts:* Solitary and secretive fish but are relatively common.



Abudefduf saxatilis
Family name: Pomacentridae | *Local name:* Sargeant Major | *Size:* 5 in | *Habitat:* Mid water | *Fun Facts:* A very common mid-water feeder. Often seen protecting purple mats of their eggs.



Holacanthus ciliaris
Family name: Pomacanthidae | *Local name:* Queen Angel | *Size:* 1 ft | *Habitat:* Reef top | *Fun Facts:* Named for the blue, royal crown on the forehead, this is a very shy fish.



Gobiosoma evelynae
Family name: Gobiidae | *Local name:* Sharknose Goby | *Size:* 1 in | *Habitat:* Rests on reef | *Fun Facts:* These are cleaner fish and one of the few gobies you will see in the area. They are often seen in large cleaning stations.



Aulostomus maculatus
Family name: Carangidae | *Local name:* TrumpetFish | *Size:* 2 ft | *Habitat:* All over the reef looking for prey | *Fun Facts:* Will drift head down to look over coral, also will hide behind parrotfish to make sneak attacks on prey.



Selar crumenophthalmus
Family name: Carangidae | *Local name:* Scad | *Size:* 10 in | *Habitat:* Fast-moving schools seen in the valleys around the reef | *Fun Facts:* Quite common in the areas between reefs on the outside ledge at Secret Bay.



Myrichthys breviceps
Family name: Ophichthidae | *Local name:* Sharptail Snake Eel | *Size:* 2 ft | *Habitat:* Out on the reef | *Fun Facts:* Although it looks more like a snake, it is the eel family. It has gills and breaths underwater. There are no sea snakes in the Caribbean.



Gymnothorax miliaris
Family name: Muraenidae | *Local name:* Goldentail Moray | *Size:* 2 ft | *Habitat:* Under ledges and in crevices | *Fun Facts:* During the daytime, you will only see their head in crevices. Opens and closes mouth to breathe.



Gymnothorax funebris
Family name: Muraenidae | *Local name:* Spotted Moray | *Size:* 3 ft | *Habitat:* Under ledges and in crevices | *Fun Facts:* Often seen pumping water over their gills by opening and closing their mouth. Not aggressive unless provoked.



Echidna catenata
Family name: Muraenidae | *Local name:* Chain Moray | *Size:* 18 in | *Habitat:* Under ledges and in crevices | *Fun Facts:* The most beautiful of the moray eels. Found in crevices and often in shallow rocks.



Creatures of the bay visit, live and feed among the reef rocks and coral, or within the depths of water. The depths of Secret Bay allow for a wide assortment of creatures: some bizarre and others intriguing; some shy and others unfazed.

Delphinus

Family name: Delphinidae | *Local name:* Dolphins | *Size:* Ranges | *Habitat:* Anywhere in the open ocean | *Fun Facts:* Sometimes seen out in the channel, there are a variety of dolphins such as the short-beaked common dolphin who live in the Caribbean waters.



Physeter macrocephalus

Family name: Physeteridae | *Local name:* Sperm Whale | *Size:* Can reach up to 67ft | *Habitat:* Anywhere in the open ocean | *Fun Facts:* Sperm whales have been spotted in the waters just off the Secret Bay property.



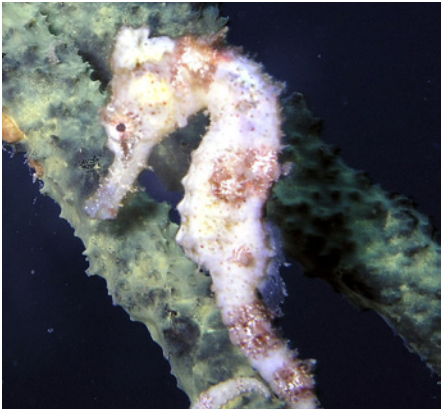
Eretmochelys imbricata

Family name: Cheloniidae | *Local name:* Hawksbill Turtle | *Size:* 3 ft | *Habitat:* Sitting on the reef, swimming mid-water or breathing on the surface | *Fun Facts:* Turtles must surface to breathe air; you will see them as they keep an eye out for predators while on the surface.



Sepioteuthis sepioidea

Family name: Loliginidae | *Local name:* Reef Squid | *Size:* 12 in | *Habitat:* Shallows around reef | *Fun Facts:* Look for them in mid-water. They will point at you so they can squirt away at high speed.



Hippocampus erectus

Family name: Syngnathidae | *Local name:* Lined Seahorse | *Size:* 4 in | *Habitat:* Wrapped around vertical corals | *Fun Facts:* These are rarely seen by snorkelers. Keep an eye on sea whips, sea rods or rope sponges on which they are found, with their tails wrapped for security.



Panulirus argus

Family name: Palinuridae | *Local name:* Spiny lobster | *Size:* 2 ft | *Habitat:* Found around coral reefs | *Fun Facts:* In the day, they will hide in reefs crevices and holes. They come out at night to hunt.

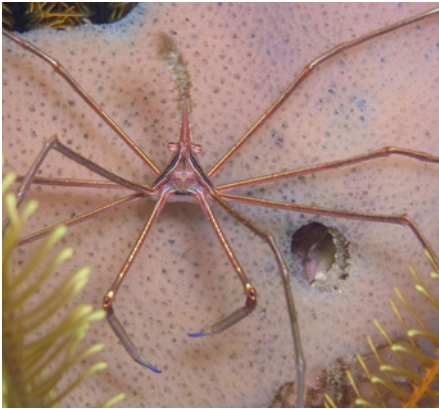


Mithrax cinctimanus

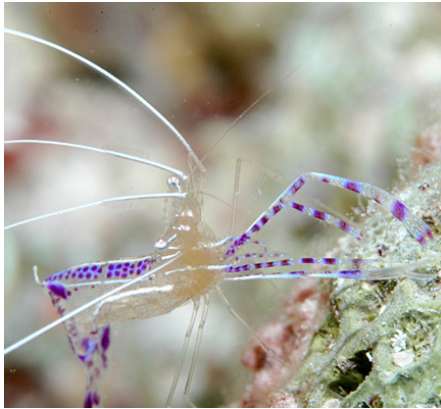
Family name: Cheloniidae | *Local name:* Banded Clinging Crab | *Size:* 2 in | *Habitat:* Found in and around reefs | *Fun Facts:* Often live in association with giant anemones.



Mithrax spinosissimus
Family name: Cheloniidae | *Local name:* Channel Clinging Crab | *Size:* 1 in | *Habitat:* Found in and around reefs | *Fun Facts:* The largest of the Caribbean reef crab species



Stenorhynchus seticornis
Family name: Inachidae | *Local name:* Arrow crab | *Size:* 3 in | *Habitat:* Found in and around reefs | *Fun Facts:* Named after their pointed head, they are scavengers of the reef.



Ancylomenes pedersoni
Family name: Palaemonidae | *Local name:* Pederson's shrimp | *Size:* 1 in | *Fun Facts:* Lives within a host anemone, usually the corkscrew.



Linckia guildingi
Family name: Ophiothricidae | *Local name:* Common Comet Star | *Size:* 8 in | *Fun Facts:* This sea star is often seen with missing arms, and not only will it grow a new arm, but the broken-off arm will grow into a new sea star.



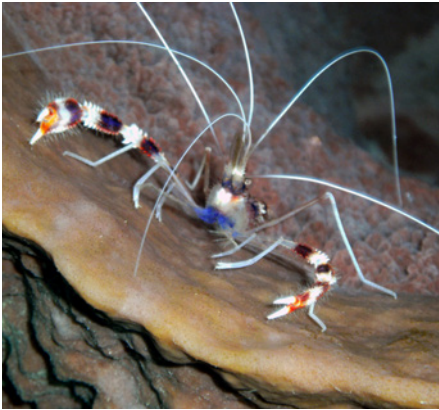
Luidia alternata
Family name: Ophiuridae | *Local name:* Banded Sea Star | *Size:* 12 in | *Fun Facts:* During the day this sea star burrows into the sand, it is most likely to be seen at night when it comes out.



Astrophyton muricatum
Family name: Gorgonocephalidae | *Local name:* Giant Basket Star (Closed during the day) | *Size:* 2 ft when it opens its arms | *Fun Facts:* This sea star spends the day balled up, and only opens at night to a lace-like pattern of filter-feeding arms.



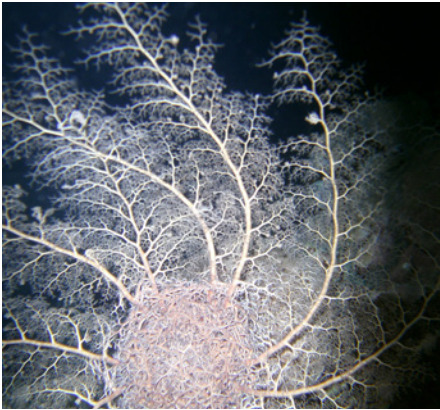
Percnon gibbesi
Family name: Plagusiidae | *Local name:* Nimble Spray Crab | *Size:* 1 in | *Habitat:* Found in and around reefs | *Fun Facts:* Often found hiding under the protective spines of sea urchins.



Stenopus hispidus
Family name: Stenopodidae | *Local name:* Banded cleaner shrimp, Banded coral shrimp | *Size:* 1 in | *Fun Facts:* Lives within a host anemone, usually the corkscrew. If you slowly extend your fingers, they will give you a manicure!



Ophiothrix suensonii
Family name: Ophiothricidae | *Local name:* Sponge Brittle Star | *Size:* 4 in | *Fun Facts:* This sea star has long spindly arms covered in brittle liking spines. They spend the day on gorgonians, fire coral or sponges, emerging fully at night to feed.



Astrophyton muricatum
Family name: Gorgonocephalidae | *Local name:* Giant Basket Star | *Size:* 2 ft when it opens its arms | *Fun Facts:* This sea star spends the day balled up, and only opens at night to a lace-like pattern of filter-feeding arms.



Echinometra viridis
Family name: Echinometridae | *Local name:* Reef Urchin | *Size:* 2 in | *Fun Facts:* A night feeder, this sea star feeds on algae.



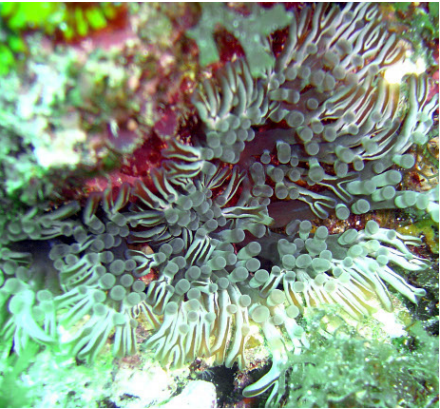
Diadema antillarum
Family name: Diadematidae | *Local name:* Black Urchin | *Size:* 8 in | *Fun Facts:* It can pierce the skin and cause painful wounds. Treat for surface infection but let any deeply embedded spines dissolve.



Tripneustes ventricosus
Family name: Toxopneustidae | *Local name:* West Indian Sea Egg | *Size:* 5 in | *Fun Facts:* Often found on flat areas of seagrass, this sea egg will partially bury themselves in the sand.



Condylactis gigantea
Family name: Actiniidae | *Local name:* Giant anemone | *Size:* 12 in | *Fun Facts:* The anemone has classic long tentacles usually housing 1 or 2 species of shrimp.



Lebrunia danae
Family name: Aliciidae | *Local name:* Branching Anemone | *Fun Facts:* Looks like brown matted tentacles with white piping. They retract by day but the tentacles extend at night to filter from passing currents.



Notaulax occidentalis
Family name: Sabellidae | *Local name:* Yellow Fan Worm | *Size:* 1 in | *Fun Facts:* Obvious yellow colour, using its gills to extract both nutrients and oxygen from the water.



Sabellidae
Family name: Sabellidae | *Local name:* Feather Duster Worm | *Size:* 1 in | *Fun Facts:* Will retract when approached by swimmers. It will then remeerge after a short while.



Sabellidae
Family name: Sabellidae | *Local name:* Feather Duster Worm | *Size:* 1 in | *Fun Facts:* Will retract when approached by swimmers. It will then remeerge after a short while.



Bartholomea annulata
Family name: Aiptasiidae | *Local name:* Corkscrew Anemone | *Size:* 6 in | *Fun Facts:* The corkscrew anemone is always a good place to find Snapping shrimp and Perdersons shrimp.



Bispira brunnea
Family name: Sabellidae | *Local name:* Social Feather Duster Worm | *Size:* 1 in | *Fun Facts:* Colonies of these small but pretty worms vary in colour from yellow to pink to violet.



Spirobranchus giganteus
Family name: Serpulidae | *Local name:* Christmas Tree Worm | *Size:* 1 in | *Fun Facts:* If a swimmer passes too close to the Christmas tree worm, they will retract in the blink of an eye. They will emerge a few minutes later.



Polychaetes
Family name: Polychaetes | *Local name:* Bristleworm | *Size:* 1 in - 6 in | *Fun Facts:* A wide variety of species the Bristleworm are excellent scavengers.



Hermodice carunculata
Family name: Amphinomidae | *Local name:* Bearded Fireworm | *Size:* 6 in | *Fun Facts:* When threatened, the fine hairs along their bodies can break off in your skin causing a burning sensation. Do Not Touch!



Niphates erecta
Family name: Niphatidae | *Local name:* Purple Rope Sponge | *Size:* 4 ft | *Fun Facts:* Prefers to inhabit walls and sloping reefs, but it can be seen on the side of rocks around Secret Bay.



Aplysina insularis
Family name: Aplysiniidae | *Local name:* Yellow Tube Sponge | *Size:* 4 ft | *Fun Facts:* Inhabits reefs at all depths. Look inside the tubes for small gobies and shrimp.



Elysia crispata
Family name: Plakobranchidae | *Local name:* Lettuce Sea Slug | *Size:* 2 in | *Fun Facts:* Very common at all depths including very shallow water. Look for the bright blue ones!



Pinna carnea
Family name: Pinnidae | *Local name:* Amber Pen Shell | *Size:* 6 in | *Fun Facts:* These can grow up to 30 cm long, but most of it is hidden beneath the sand.



Discosoma sanctithomae
Family name: Discosomidae | *Local name:* Warty Corallimorph | *Size:* 4 in | *Fun Facts:* Often looks like weird mats on the seafloor, but is actually a cross between anemone and coral.



It is sometimes easy to think that coral is inorganic, but these marine invertebrates live in colonies of polyps and take years to become the coral reefs you see today. They can live in a range of depths from a few feet to thousands of feet. The reefs provide a place for marine life to flourish and are crucial to preserve. Observe but don't touch.

Rhodophyta sp.
Family name: Poritidae | *Local name:* Red Lettuce Algae | *Size:* Varies | *Fun Facts:* A very pretty red algae often seen near the bottom of reefs.



Montastraea cavernosa

Family name: Montastraeidae | *Local name:* Giant Star Coral | *Size:* Can reach up to 5 ft in diameter | *Fun Facts:* Polyps are retracted in the day but extend at night, causing the Giant Star coral to appear different.



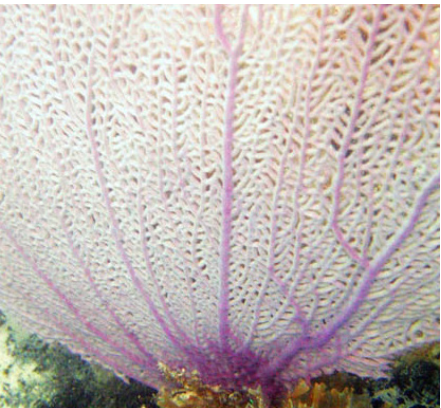
Porites porites

Family name: Poritidae | *Local name:* Finger Coral | *Size:* Lobes can be about 1 in wide | *Fun Facts:* Look like fingers sticking up to the surface



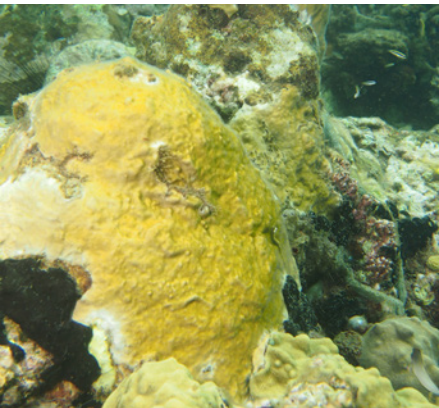
Millepora sp.

Family name: Milleporidae | *Local name:* Blade Fire Coral | *Size:* Can reach up to 20 in tall | *Fun Facts:* There can be branching, encrusting or blade, fire coral. Do not touch! It will leave a burning, painful rash.



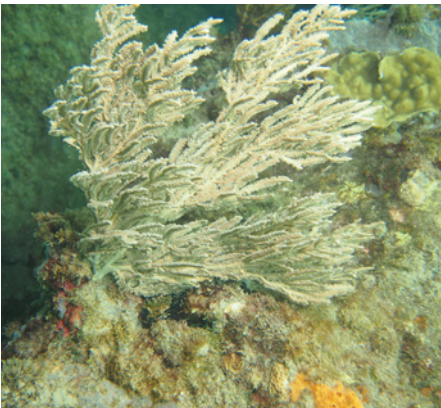
Gorgonia ventalina

Family name: Gorgoniidae | *Local name:* Purple sea fan | *Size:* Can reach up to 5 ft | *Fun Facts:* They like to live in shallow areas where there is a lot of water movement to help with filter-feeding.



Erythropodium caribaeorum

Family name: Anthothelidae | *Local name:* Encrusting gorgonian | *Size:* Ranges | *Fun Facts:* It likes shallow reefs where the polyps can feed but can grow at depths up to 25 meters.



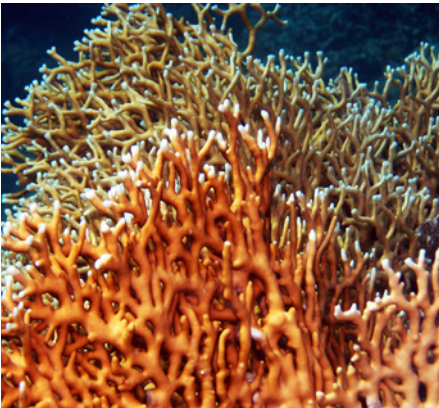
Plexaura homomalla

Family name: Plexauridae | *Local name:* Black Sea Rod, Caribbean sea whip | *Size:* Can reach up to 14 in high | *Fun Facts:* They look like branching trees but are colonial filter-feeding animals.



Millepora sp.

Family name: Milleporidae | *Local name:* Branching Fire Coral | *Size:* Can reach up to 20 in tall | *Fun Facts:* Feeds on plankton. Do not touch! It will leave a burning, painful rash.



Millepora sp.

Family name: Milleporidae | *Local name:* Encrusting Fire Coral | *Size:* Can reach up to 20 in tall | *Fun Facts:* Do not touch! It will leave a burning, painful rash.



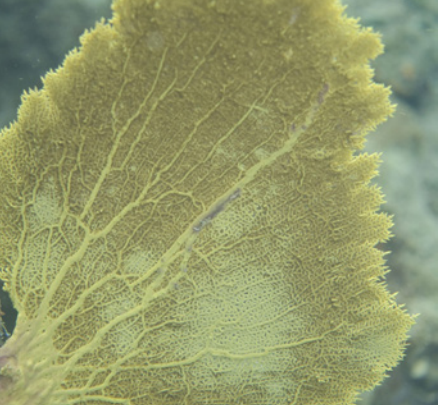
Diploria strigosa

Family name: Mussidae | *Local name:* Brain coral | *Size:* Can reach up to 6 ft in diameter | *Fun Facts:* Resembling a human brain, these long-living corals can be found all around the reef.



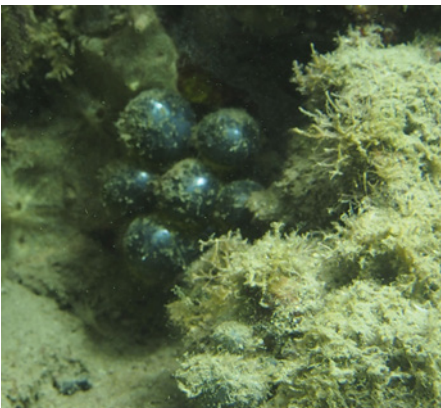
Antillogorgia bipinnata

Family name: Gorgoniidae | *Local name:* Seaplume | *Size:* Can reach up to 22 in | *Fun Facts:* Rapid growing corals, they can be purple, grey or yellow.



Gorgonia flabellum

Family name: Gorgoniidae | *Local name:* Venus Seafan, West Indian sea fan | *Size:* Can reach up to 5 ft | *Fun Facts:* They like to live in areas where there is a lot of water movement to help with filter-feeding.



Valonia ventricosa

Family name: Valoniaceae | *Local name:* Sea Pearls | *Size:* Can grow up to 1.6 in in diameter | *Fun Facts:* Actually a member of the algae family, they are the largest single-cell organism in the marine or terrestrial world.



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Special thanks to Petrea Honychurch Seaman, Dr. Lennox
Honychurch, Bertrand “Dr. Birdie” Jno Baptiste, Marica Honychurch,
Simon Walsh, Arun Madisetti, Stephanie Astaphan and Wicked+.

THE FLORA, FAUNA & MARINE LIFE OF SECRET BAY

Secret Bay has worked hard to preserve and re-establish the wildlife that thrives here. It is not just about creating a place to stay, but also capturing Dominica in a time when her land and wildlife were valued not just for what they could provide, but as cohabitants in a precious ecosystem.

Secret Bay

DOMINICA, CARIBBEAN