



Biodiversity of Coral Reef Communities in Marginal Environments along the North-Eastern Coast of Trinidad, Southern Caribbean

Belford SG^{1*}, Phillip DAT², Rutherford MG², Schmidt Roach S^{2,3} and Duncan EJ²

¹Martin Methodist College, USA

²Department of Life Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, W.I.

³Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, Australia

***Corresponding author:** SG Belford, Martin Methodist College, 433 West Madison Street, Pulaski, Tennessee, 38478, USA, Tel: 1-931-424-4621; Email: sbelford@martinmethodist.edu

Received Date: April 15, 2019; **Published Date:** April 25, 2019

Abstract

A survey of the biological diversity of coral and associated reef organisms was conducted for the Salybia and Grande L'Anse reefs along the north-eastern coast of Trinidad by reviewing the literature, museum collections, and conducting field surveys between the years 2005 through 2019. Surveys conducted used the line and point intercept and quadrat techniques to gather data. If unidentified and incompletely identified specimens are not included, this study found 257 species belonging to 134 families, 23 classes, and 11 phyla. Most species belonged to Mollusca (75 species), Chordata (57), Cnidaria (43) and Arthropoda (33). Despite their proximity to each other, only 42 species were common to both reefs. Of the other species, most (178) were found at Salybia Reef. Only members of Phylum Porifera showed a greater species richness at Grande L'Anse Reef than Salybia Reef, with five and two species, respectively. This is the first complete marine biodiversity survey for the most north-eastern part of Trinidad, which includes the only fringing coral reef in Trinidad. Coral reef monitoring is essentially important in this area, as there are current plans to build a port at Grande L'Anse Reef, thus potentially destroying a valuable area of the coral reef network observed along the north-eastern coast of Trinidad.

Keywords: Southern Caribbean; Grande L'Anse Reef; Salybia Reef; Benthic Communities; Marine Biodiversity; Marine Ecology

Introduction

Caribbean coral reefs, like coral reefs across the globe, are among the world's most valuable and most threatened ecosystems, making them a major priority for conservation and management [1,2]. Globally, coral reefs are considered one of the most biologically diverse

ecosystems in the world [3,4]. They cover only ~0.1% of the surface of the planet, yet hold an estimated 95,000 described species, equivalent to 5% of the world's known diversity (1.9 million species), and about 35% of all described marine species [4,5]. It is likely that coral reefs may contain as many as 3 million (described and undescribed) species [6]. Caribbean reefs are important as

the storehouse of the bulk of the Atlantic Ocean's coral reef and associated biodiversity, which is estimated to contain about 30,000 (known and un-known) coral reef-associated species [6].

Apart from being incubators of much of the world's marine biodiversity, coral reefs provide several critical ecosystem goods and services such as physical (*e.g.*, shoreline protection), ecological (*e.g.*, nutrient cycling, provision of fisheries resources), biogeochemical (*e.g.*, acting as a carbon sink) and socio-cultural (*e.g.*, recreation and tourism) benefits [7]. Despite their importance, coral reefs are among the most threatened of the world's ecosystems [8]. Threats to reefs range from over-exploitation and use of destructive resource exploitation methods, to pollution, disease outbreaks and climate change [2,9]. Wilkinson [10] estimated that as much as 20% of coral reefs across the globe had been destroyed, with very little chances of recovery, and further, that 24% of the reefs across the world were facing impending collapse. Caribbean reefs seem to be particularly vulnerable, as they have suffered disproportionately greater degradation, and are worse at recovering from disturbances than reefs elsewhere [11-13].

Under these circumstances, obtaining baseline information from biological surveys across the full range of variation of these reefs, and an understanding of the processes that help maintain coral reef diversity on individual reefs is critical for quantifying losses, and establishing restoration targets [14]. However, as Reaka-Kudla [6] observed, it is amazing how little we know about the taxonomic diversity of coral reef communities; and other information critical to the protection and maintenance of these ecosystems (*e.g.*, abundance, ecological role, and reproductive biology and habitat affiliations of individual species). She indicated that one of the most basic information gaps that needed to be filled, as a priority, was simply what species occur on individual reefs, and argued that it was also important to know the distribution of species across reefs. These statements are valid for the Caribbean, where gaps in much of our knowledge exist for several reasons. Firstly, what we do know is based on selected, charismatic reefs, particularly those that meet a relatively narrow set of criteria-*e.g.*, most coral reefs were studied in clear, tropical, coastal waters-with low-coral-diversity systems in marginal conditions largely ignored. Secondly, even the best-studied Caribbean reefs have not been thoroughly inventoried relative to species diversity, as the focus has usually been on a few taxonomic groups: *e.g.*, corals, fishes, algae and sponges, with less attention paid to cryptic sessile fauna and non-disease-forming microbes [6]. This restricted focus may have arisen because many methods used in coral reef surveys have a limited focus

suited to very specific research objectives (*e.g.*, Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA), which was intended to provide information on coral reef accretion and degradation, focuses on reef builders and bioeroders). Additionally, there was the real problem of access to taxonomic expertise in the region [6]. Finally, data held by institutions across the region have not been collated and synthesised into a regional database, nor made easily accessible to researchers and/or resource managers [6]. As a result, we have only an incomplete idea of what biodiversity Caribbean coral reefs hold, what was lost, what was retained, and how this biodiversity is distributed across the region, and therefore we do not have adequate baseline descriptions of reef communities that can be useful for restoration [15].

The present study attempts to address one of the information gaps identified above, simply knowing what biodiversity exists in Caribbean coral systems is helpful with developing management or protection for these ecosystems. The focus will be little-known coral communities in the twin-island nation, Trinidad & Tobago (T&T), since it may be important to study previously neglected reefs, especially those in marginal conditions, as they may act as biodiversity reservoirs/refugia, or contain unique elements or combinations of biological diversity [16]. It is important to establish current baseline conditions (*e.g.*, biological diversity, ecosystem health) for these ecosystems, and determine what, if any, contribution they can make to the fight to conserve Caribbean coral reef biodiversity. T&T was selected because: 1) the coral systems closest to, and able to survive the influence of the freshwater output from the Amazon and Orinoco rivers are located in Trinidad, so there are several marginal coral systems for a discussion on marginal conditions and reef marginality) in the country [14,17]; 2) T&T is located at the intersection of three western Atlantic biogeographic regions, the insular Caribbean, the continental Caribbean, and south-eastern continental South America, and may therefore have unique biota with elements of all three zones; 3) the most marginal of the reefs, those in Trinidad, have not been studied since T&T's reefs of worth are considered by many to be restricted to the more northerly of the two islands, Tobago, which therefore attracts almost all of the attention given to coral reef research in the country.

Trinidad, whose marine environment can be considered hostile to coral reef development due to the influence of highly-turbid, nutrient-rich, freshwater runoff from South America, has coral communities of varying sizes and stages of marginality, particularly along its northern coastline. These reach their highest level of organisation at Salybia Reef, which is considered to be a young fringing reef, located on the eastern extremity of the north coast

[18]. Though considered to be marginal, Trinidad's coral systems do provide important ecosystem goods and services, whose value, generally, have not been appreciated by resource managers. Grande L'Anse Reef, for instance, provides some measure of protection for housing and infrastructure along an otherwise eroding coastline (*e.g.*, part of the coastal road slumped into the sea just over 10 years ago). Some, such as those at Macqueripe, Blanchisseuse and Toco Bay, provide sea moss, shell- and fin-fish, and recreation.

The objective of this paper is to challenge the widely-held view that marginal reefs are of little biological value by demonstrating that they can be remarkably species rich. We therefore compiled species lists of the macrobiota for two marginal coral systems on the north coast of Trinidad.

Methodology

Salybia and Grande L'Anse reefs were chosen for the present study since both meet the same criteria set by Kleypas, et al. [19] for defining marginal coral systems, and both had been the subject of *ad hoc* biological collecting in the 20th and early 21st centuries. Descriptions of the biological diversity of these two coral systems were found in Kenny, et al. [18] and Ramsaroop [20]. Kenny, et al. [18] provided a qualitative description of the Salybia Reef that included brief, and somewhat cursory, mention of a number of taxa. Ramsaroop [20] described the octocorals of Trinidad, including those found on the Grande L'Anse Reef in Toco Bay. Later, Duncan & Lee Lum

[21] published a checklist of the marine macroalgae of Trinidad & Tobago, citing several species from both Salybia and Grande L'Anse reefs.

Site Descriptions

Salybia and Grande L'Anse reefs are located near the eastern extremity of the north coast of Trinidad (Figure 1), and are located at the eastern and western ends of an almost contiguous band of coral communities spanning several bays in this part of the island. Both reefs are shallow, turbid, high-energy systems, with *Porites* sp. as the main reef-building (hermatypic) coral. Maximum depths on the reef flats were less than 2 m. At Salybia, the shallow part of the reef (*i.e.*, reef crest to back reef) ran approximately 1.3 km along shore, traversing Pequelle and Salybia bays, and extended about 200 m from shore to the outer edge of the reef crest. The shallow reef was bisected by the Salybia River, with noticeable differences on either side of the resulting stone bank and channel through the reef: there was a sandy lagoon with small *Porites* sp. outcrops, *Porites* sp. rubble and a seagrass bed to the west of the channel, whereas to the east, the lagoon was replaced by a broad *Porites* rubble zone, interspersed with small *Porites* colonies. Kenny, et al. [18] estimated that water depth in the lagoon ranged from 0.5-2m. There was obvious zonation progressing from the back reef to the reef crest; the latter was dominated by zoanthids, particularly *Palythoa caribaeorum*. Reef slope development was poor along the eastern and northern borders of the reef [18]. To the west, there were deeper waters dominated by octocorals.

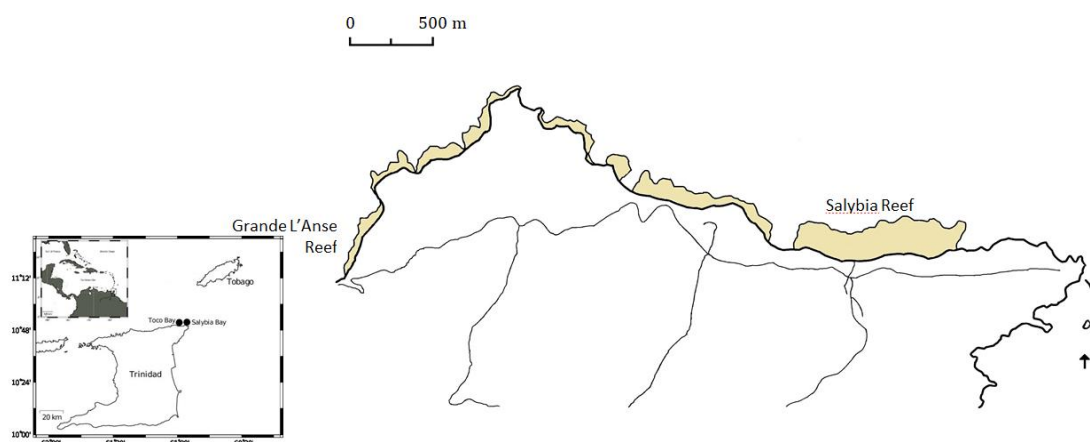


Figure 1: Location of the two coral communities examined by the present study. Grande L'Anse Reef is located across Baptiste Bay to the north and Toco Bay to the south, and Salybia Reef runs from Pequelle Bay to the east to Salybia Bay to the west. Shaded areas represent the extent of coral communities along the north coast of Trinidad. The insert is a map of the Caribbean showing the location of Trinidad & Tobago and a map of Trinidad and Tobago showing the location of the two main bays in which the coral communities are located. The inset is adapted from Belford & Phillip [14].

At Salybia Reef, surface salinities typically ranged from about 30-35 p.s.u. [18,20]. During the rainy season patches of low-salinity (5-15 p.s.u.) water were found near the outfalls of the three streams that emptied onto the reef [18]. Surface water temperatures ranged between 25 and 28°C, though in sunny conditions during lowest spring low tides extreme highs of 32°C and more recently 33°C have been measured [18,20]. There was a pronounced westerly current over the reef, which flowed at rates of 1.08–20 cm s⁻¹, except at the western end of reef crest where water flow was constricted near the shoreline, and current speeds in excess of 1 ms⁻¹ have been recorded [18]. Kenny, et al. [18] estimated the discharge rate of water from the lagoon to be 30, 000 m³hr⁻¹.

Grande L'Anse Reef was a much smaller system to the west of Salybia Reef. The shallow part of the reef (*i.e.*, reef crest and back reef) ran approximately 0.8 km along shore, traversing Toco Bay, from Baptist Bay to the fishing jetty, and extended only about 50 m from shore to the outer edge of the reef crest. Though it was possible to distinguish zonation on this reef (Schmidt-Roach pers. obs.), there was minimal back reef, with no discernible lagoon or rubble zone. As with Salybia, the main hermatypic coral found on the reef flat was *Porites* spp., and the reef crest was dominated by soft corals, especially *Palythoa caribaeorum*. Reef slope development was also poor along the northern border of the reef, but to the west, there was deeper water dominated by octocorals.

Surface salinities on Grande L'Anse Reef ranged from 0.1-35.7 p.s.u. (Phillip & Belford unpubl. data). The very low salinities (0.1-12 p.s.u.) were obtained in distinct spots, almost midway between shore and the reef crest, during a very low spring low tide after a period of heavy rainfall. Such low salinities were obtained in areas of upwelling of fresh ground water; geologically, the northeastern peninsula is bisected by a swath of highly-fractured sandstone whose northern boundary ends into Toco Bay. Temperatures, which varied between 23.8 and 33.6 °C, were generally about 1 °C lower than those recorded at Salybia Reef. As with Salybia Bay, currents were generally westerly, flowing at speeds of 1.17–11.03 cm s⁻¹.

Sampling

The species lists presented here focus only on the macrobiota, and are based on information compiled from surveys conducted by the authors in 2005 and 2008-2019; from reviews of museum collections; and from published and unpublished reports. The shallow depth, high turbidity and fierce waves made it difficult to conduct fieldwork on these reefs at most times of the day, and during most of the year. Fieldwork was therefore

restricted to daytime low tides, especially during the period from about March to September, which was when spring tides resulted in more accommodating water conditions.

In the field, species diversity was determined using unstructured exploration of the reefs during which specimens were either collected, photo- or video-graphed *in situ*, and in structured surveys using line and point intercept, and quadrat survey methods. Line and point intercept and quadrat methods were used along transects run from shore to the reef crest at 50-m intervals. For the line and point method, the identity of the benthos under the transect at 1-m intervals was recorded. If it was difficult to identify the organism *in situ*, photographs were taken for later identification using taxonomic keys. Benthic invertebrates were sampled using 0.25 m² quadrats deployed along transects running parallel to shore. Using these, four 25 cm³ of substrate were collected and taken back to the laboratory where the replicates were sorted separately, and specimens identified to the highest taxonomic level using available keys. Whenever possible, specimens were kept alive and returned to the reef after being identified.

Algae and plants were identified using field identification guides, whereas invertebrates were identified using a series of publications [22-33]. Fishes were identified using Humann & deLoach [34]. Additionally, specimens and registers in The University of the West Indies' Zoology Museum (UWIZM) and the National Herbarium (TRIN), both in the Department of Life Sciences, U.W.I., St. Augustine, and published and unpublished literature were reviewed for specimens and references to species occurring on these two reefs. Holdings of other collections were also accessed via the Global Biodiversity Information Facility¹. Currently accepted taxonomic information for all species were as given in Boxshall, et al. [35].

Results

The species list presents a total of 225 species (+32 unidentified), belonging to 167 genera (+7 unidentified), 133 families (+ 1 unidentified), 52 orders (+1 unidentified), 21 classes (+2 unidentified, one of which is due to unresolved taxonomic issues in the phylum), in 11 phyla, and three kingdoms (Chromista, represented by one phylum; Plantae, represented by three phyla; and

¹ <http://www.gbif.org/> accessed as <http://data.gbif.org/download/preparingDownload.htm?downloadFile=occurrence-search-13826338474793794280490869377111.zip>, 23rd October 2013

Animalia, represented by seven phyla). The most speciose phyla were the Mollusca, followed by the Chordata, Cnidaria and Arthropoda. A far larger number of species was reported from Salybia Reef than from Grande L'Anse (Table 1). There were just under five times more species recorded only on Salybia Reef than on Grande L'Anse Reef, not including shared species. The number of species recorded at Grande L'Anse Reef was almost as many as the number shared with Salybia. Only one phylum, Porifera, showed a greater species richness at Grande L'Anse than Salybia, with four and one species, respectively.

The Chromista was represented four species of brown algae, or Phaeophyceae. In the plant kingdom, there was a single flowering plant *Thalassia testudinum*, and over 22 species of algae (representing at least 2 phyla (green and red algae), 5 classes, 9 orders, 16 families and 17 genera). If the algae were considered, altogether there were > 4 algae in Toco Bay and >20 species in Salybia. There were few species in common between the two reefs (*Caulerpa racemosa*, *C. sertularioides* and *Thalassia testudinum*). This may be an underestimate as some of the unidentified species may represent species shared between the two systems. One of the incompletely identified species *Gracilaria* sp. listed for Grande L'Anse Reef, for instance, may actually belong to one of the *Gracilaria* species listed for Salybia Reef (Table 2). In addition, the unidentified rhodophyte listed as a crystalline coralline alga (Table 2), is likely to comprise more than one species, at least one of which may be common to both reefs.

A greater diversity of Porifera was reported for Grande L'Anse Reef with only one species shared between the two reefs (Table 1). An examination of the actual species (Table 2) showed that those listed only for Grande L'Anse

were typical of deeper, calmer waters, whereas reef-flat species were found at Salybia. This reflects the habitats from which sponge data were collected on the two reefs.

Cnidarians, particularly anthozoans, were relatively well represented on both reefs (Table 1). Though both reefs were described as overwhelmingly dominated by branching *Porites* spp., at least 10 other species of scleractinian corals were reported for Salybia, and three for Grande L'Anse (Table 2). Examination of the notes in table 2 showed that some of the species reported for Salybia (*Acropora prolifera*, *Montastrea cavernosa*, *Diploria clivosa* and *Oculina* sp.) have not been reported since the 1970s or late 1990s. Ahermatypic anthozoan diversity was dominated by the alcyonaceans, 12 (+5 unidentified) of 17 (+6 unidentified) species, particularly the gorgonians and plexaurids, most of which were reported for Grande L'Anse Reef (Table 2).

Molluscs were overwhelmingly dominated by the Gastropoda, which accounted for 57 (+2 unidentified) of the 75 species in the group (Table 1). Twenty two of these were archaeogastropods, the most speciose of the gastropod orders in the study (Table 2). Almost half of the species of gastropods reported for Grande L'Anse were also found in Salybia Reef. Though most were small, cryptic species, some (e.g., *Cittarium pica*, the West Indian topshail, and *Lobatus raninus*, the hawkwing conch) were larger species of local commercial value (DAT Phillip pers. obs.). Others, such as the nudibranch, *Elysia crepistata*, were very visible at times due to their apparent seasonal population explosions (DAT Phillip & SG Belford pers. obs.). In addition, six species each of bivalves and polyplacophorans, and three (+1 unidentified) octopi were recorded.

Taxon: Class and Phylum (in bold)	Salybia only			Grande L'Anse only			Shared			Both sites combined		
	Id.	Unid.	Total	Id.	Unid.	Total	Id.	Unid.	Total	Id.	Unid.	Total
Phaeophyceae	4		4							4		4
Total Ochrophyta	4		4							4		4
Chlorophyceae	1		1							1		1
Ulvophyceae	4	1	5	3	1	4	2		2	9	2	11
Total Chlorophyta	5	1	6	3	1	4	2		2	10	2	12
Florideophyceae	11	1	12		1	1				11	2	13
unidentified								1	1		1	1
Total Rhodophyta	11	1	12		1	1		1	1	11	3	14
unresolved							1		1	1		1
Total Trachaeophyta							1		1	1		1
Desmospongiae	1		1	4		4	1		1	6		6
Total Porifera	1		1	4		4	1		1	6		6
Hydrozoa							1		1	1		1
Scyphozoa	1		1							1		1
Anthozoa	9	2	11	4	5	9	19	2	21	32	9	41

Total Cnidaria	10	2	12	4	5	9	20	2	22	34	9	43
Bivalvia	5		5	1		1				6		6
Cephalopoda	3		3		1	1				3	1	4
Gastropoda	38	2	40	11		11	8		8	57	2	59
Polyplacophora	6		6							6		6
Total Mollusca	54	2	54	12	1	13	8		8	72	3	75
Polychaeta	1		1				1		1	2		2
Total Annelida	1		1				1		1	2		2
Malacostraca	27	1	28	1		1				28	1	29
Maxillopoda	4		4							4		4
Total Arthropoda	31	1	32	1		1				32	1	33
Asteroidea	1		1							1		1
Crinoidea				1		1				1		1
Echinoidea	1		1				1		1	2		2
Holothuroidea	4		4							4		4
Ophiuroidea	2		2							2		2
Total Echinodermata	8		8	1		1	1		1	10		10
Actinopterygii	35	13	48	4		4	4	1	5	43	14	57
Total Chordata	35	13	48	4		4	4	1	5	43	14	57
Grand total	158	20	178	29	8	37	38	4	42	225	32	257

Where: Id. = identified; Unid. = unidentified

Table 1: Number of species recorded by taxonomic group for Grande L'Anse and Salybia reefs. The data is presented by class, and summed by phylum. Unidentified species are those for which the genus and/or species has not been identified. Species recorded for both systems are listed separately to avoid double counting. It should be noted that it is unavoidable that some of the unidentified species taken from registers for overseas collections might be the same as species identified in the checklist, since we were not able to examine them.

Annelids were represented by two species, with one, *Hermodice carnunculata* the bearded fireworm, present on both reefs (Tables 1 and 2). Arthropods were dominated by the class Malacostraca (which accounted for 29 of 33 species), itself dominated by the Decapoda. The 29 malacostracan species were evenly distributed among the 18 families they represented, with only two families (Majidae with six species, and Xanthidae with four) with more than two species.

Though only 10 echinoderm species were recorded (Table 1), they represented five of the six classes in the phylum. The Holothuroidea was the most speciose class, with all four species found on Salybia Reef (Table 2). The only crinoid found in the study, *Tropiometra carinata*, was

recorded for Grande L'Anse Reef only. Only one species, the rock-boring urchin *Echinometra lucunter*, was recorded for both reefs.

The Chordata was represented by six orders, all of which belonged to the class Actinopterygii (Table 2). At the level of order, the evenness aspect of diversity was low as all but six of the 43 (+14 unidentified) fishes belonged to the Perciformes. Though many typical reef fish families were present, most were represented by only one or two species. The most speciose families were the Pomacentridae and Haemulidae, with eight (+2 unidentified) and six (+1 unidentified) species, respectively.

The full species list is presented in Table 2.

Kingdom Chromista				
Phylum: Ochrophyta (Heterokontophyta)				
Class: Phaeophyceae				
Order	Family	Species name and authority	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Dictyotales	Dictyotaceae	<i>Dictyopteris delicatula</i> Lamouroux, 1809		Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Padina gymnospora</i> (Kützinger) Sonder, 1871		TRIN27759 (1982) ^a

		<i>Padina pavonica</i> (Linnaeus) Thivy, 1960	peacock's tail alga	TRIN27755 (1982) ^a
		<i>Padina sanctae-crucis</i> Børgesen, 1914	scroll alga	TRIN27632 (1982) ^a
Kingdom Plantae				
Phylum: Chlorophyta				
Class: Chlorophyceae				
Order	Family	Species name and authority	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Ulvales	Cladophoraceae	<i>Cladophora catenata</i> (Linnaeus) Kützinger, 1843		TRIN27760 (1982) ^a
Class: Ulvophyceae				
Order	Family	Species name and authority	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Bryopsidales	Bryopsidaceae	<i>Bryopsis pennata</i> Lamouroux, 1809		TRIN27639 (1982) ^a ; 2009 ^a
		<i>Bryopsis</i> sp. Lamouroux, 1809		Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^b
	Caulerpaceae	<i>Caulerpa mexicana</i> Sonder ex Kützinger, 1849	flat green feather alga	TRIN34984 (1975) ^b
		<i>Caulerpa racemosa</i> (Forsskål) Agardh, 1873	green grape alga	TRIN16767 (1960) ^b ; Schmidt (2005) ^b ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
		<i>Caulerpa sertularioides</i> (Gmelin) Howe, 1905	green feather alga	TRIN27633 & TRIN27757 (1982) ^a ; Schmidt (2005) ^b ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
	Codiaceae	<i>Codium</i> sp.	dead man's fingers?	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
Cladophorales	Cladophoraceae	<i>Chaetomorpha antennina</i> (Bory de Saint-Vincent) Kützinger, 1847		TRIN16706 (1956) ^b
		<i>Chaetomorpha gracilis</i> Kützinger 1845		Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Cladophora coelothrix</i> Kützinger, 1843		TRIN16716 (1956) ^b
Ulvales	Ulvaceae	<i>Ulva flexuosa</i> Wulfen, 1803	sea lettuce	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Ulva linza</i> Linnaeus, 1753	green lettuce alga, sea lettuce	Belford unpubl. ^a
Phylum: Rhodophyta				
Class: Florideophyceae				
Order	Family	Species name & authority	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Ceramiales	Ceramiaceae	<i>Ceramium</i> sp.		Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
	Corallinales	<i>Amphiroa rigida</i> Lamouroux, 1816	Calcified- or Y-twig alga	TRIN27630 (1982) ^a
	Rhodomelaceae	<i>Acanthophora spicifera</i> (M. Vahl) Børgesen, 1910	spiny sea weed	TRIN27634 (1982) ^a
	Spyridiaceae	<i>Spyridia clavata</i> Kützinger, 1841		TRIN27623 (1982) ^a
		<i>Spyridia filamentosa</i> (Wulfen) Harvey, 1833		Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
	Wrangeliaceae	<i>Pleonosporium flexuosum</i> (C.Agardh) Bornet ex De Toni, 1903		Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
Gigartinales	Crystocloniaceae	<i>Hypnea spinella</i> (Agardh) Kützinger, 1847		TRIN27637 (1982) ^a
	Rhizophyllidaceae	<i>Ochtodes secundiramea</i> (Montagne) Howe, 1920		TRIN27635 (1982) ^a
Gracilariales	Gracilariaceae	<i>Gracilaria ornata</i> Areschoug, 1854		TRIN27763 & 27766 (1982) ^a
		<i>Gracilaria papenfussii</i> Abbott, 1983		TRIN27636 & 27761 (1982) ^a
		<i>Gracilaria</i> sp.	sea moss	Schmidt (2005) ^b
		<i>Gracilaria venezuelensis</i> Taylor,		TRIN27638, 27762 & 27764

		1942		(1982) ^a
Nemaliales	Galaxauraceae	<i>Tricleocarpa fragilis</i> (Linnaeus) Huisman & Townsend, 1993		TRIN27631 (1982) ^a
Class: Unidentified				
Order	Family	Species name and authority	Common name	Accession no. & notes
unidentified	unidentified	unidentified	crustose coralline algae	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
Phylum: Trachaeophyta				
Class Under revision				
Order	Family	Species name & authority	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Alismatales	Hydrocharitaceae	<i>Thalassia testudinum</i> Banks ex König, 1805	turtle grass	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
Kingdom Animalia				
Phylum: Porifera				
Class: Desmospongiae				
Order	Family	Species name and authority	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Haplosclerida	Callyspongiidae	<i>Callyspongia (Cladochalina) plicifera</i> Lamark, 1814	azure vase sponge	Schmidt (2005) ^b
	Phloeodictyidae	<i>Siphonodictyon coralliphagum</i> Rützler, 1971	variable boring sponge	Schmidt (2005) ^b
	Niphatidae	<i>Amphimedon viridis</i> Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864		Schmidt (2005) ^b ; Phillip unpubl. ^a
Homosclerophorida	Plakinidae	<i>Plakortis angulospiculatus</i> (Carter 1882)	viscous sponge	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
Verongida	Aplysinidae	<i>Aiolochoira crassa</i> Hyatt, 1875		Schmidt (2005) ^b
		<i>Aplysina fulva</i> (Pallas, 1766)	scattered pore rope sponge	Schmidt (2005) ^b
Phylum: Cnidaria				
Class: Hydrozoa				
Order	Family	Species name and authority	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Anthoathecata	Milleporidae	<i>Millepora alcicornis</i> Linnaeus 1758	branching fire coral	UWIZM.2010.15.11, 2010.15.12, 2011.11.139 ^a ; Schmidt (2005) ^b ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
Class: Scyphozoa				
Order	Family	Species name and authority	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Rhizostomeae	Stomolophidae	<i>Stomolophus meleagris</i> Agassiz 1862	cannonball jellyfish	UWIZM.2010.15.22 ^a
Class: Anthozoa				
Order	Family	Species name & authority	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Actiniaria	Actiniidae	unidentified sp.	anemone	2010 ^a
	Phymanthidae	<i>Phymanthus crucifer</i> (Lesueur 1817)	beaded anemone	UWIZM.2010.15.14 (2010) ^a ; Schmidt (2005) ^b ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
	Stichodactylidae	<i>Stichodactyla helianthus</i> (Ellis 1768)	sun anemone	UWIZM.2010.15.13 (2010) ^a ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
Scleractinia	Acroporidae	<i>Acropora palmata</i> (Lamark 1816)	elkhorn coral	UWIZM.2011.11.166 (2009) ^a ; encrustation on coral rubble
		<i>Acropora prolifera</i> (Lamark 1816)	fused staghorn coral	Kenny <i>et al.</i> (1976) ^a
	Merulinidae	<i>Orbicella annularis</i> (Ellis & Solander)	Caribbean star coral	UWIZM.2011.11.158 (2009) ^a ; Kenny <i>et al.</i> (1975) ^a
	Montastraeidae	<i>Montastraea cavernosa</i> Linnaeus 1767	great star coral	UWIZM.2011.11.61 ^a
	Mussidae	<i>Diploria clivosa</i> (Ellis & Solander)	knobby brain coral	UWIZM.2011.11.5 (1971) ^a

		1786)		
		<i>Diploria strigosa</i> (Dana 1846)	symmetrical brain coral	UWIZM.2011.11.163 (2009) ^a ; Schmidt (2005) ^b
		<i>Favia fragrum</i> (Esper 1795)	golfball coral	UWIZM.2011.11.64, 2011.11.152 (2009) ^a ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
	Oculinidae	<i>Oculina</i> sp.	poss. diffusa	UWIZM.2011.11.145 (1998) ^a
	Poritidae	<i>Porites asteroides</i> Lamark 1816	mustard hill coral	UWIZM.2011.11.11, 2011.11.12, 2011.24.13 (2008) ^a ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
		<i>Porites branneri</i> Rathburn 1887	blue crust coral	Kenny (1988) ^a
		<i>Porites divaricata</i> Le Sueur 1820	thin finger coral	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Porites furcata</i> Lamark 1816	branched finger coral	Kenny (1988) ^{a,b}
		<i>Porites porites</i> (Pallas 1766)	club-tip finger coral	Schmidt (2005) ^b ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b} ; UWIZM.2010.15.10, 2011.11.23, 2011.11.24, 2011.11.135 (2009–2010) ^a
		<i>Porites</i> spp.	finger coral	UWIZM.2011.11.161, 2011.11.162, 2011.11.148 (2009) ^a ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
	Siderastreidae	<i>Siderastrea radians</i> (Pallas 1766)	lesser starlet coral	UWIZM.2010.15.9, 2011.11.79, 2011.11.151, 2011.11.155, 2011.11.156 (2006–2010) ^a ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
		<i>Siderastrea siderea</i> (Ellis & Solander 1768)	massive starlet coral	Kenny (1988) ^b
		<i>Siderastrea</i> sp.		UWIZM.2011.11.165 ^a ; anon. ^b
Zoantharia	Sphenopidae	<i>Palythoa caribaeorum</i> (Duchassaing & Michelotti 1860)	white encrusting zoanthid	UWIZM.2010.15.16 (2010) ^a ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
		<i>Palythoa mammillosa</i>		Kenny (1988) ^a
	Zoanthidae	<i>Zoanthus pulchellus</i> (Duchassaing & Michelotti 1860)	mat zoanthid	UWIZM.2010.15.15 (2010) ^a ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
		<i>Zoanthus sociatus</i> Ellis 1768	Button polyp	Kenny (1988) ^a ; Belford unpubl. ^a
Alcyonacea	Ellisellidae	<i>Nicella</i> sp.		Schmidt-Roach unpubl. ^b
	Gorgoniidae	<i>Gorgonia flabellum</i> Linnaeus 1758	Venus sea fan	USNM.44163.21181 ^a ; Schmidt (2005) ^b
		<i>Gorgonia ventalina</i> Linnaeus 1758	Caribbean sea fan	UWIZM.2010.15.18, 2011.11.92, 2011.11.98 (2010) ^a ; Kenny (1988) ^a ; (Ramsaroop 1976) ^b
		<i>Leptogorgia punicea</i> (Milne Edwards & Haime 1857)	sea whip	Ramsaroop (1976) ^b
		<i>Pseudopterogorgia</i> sp.	sea plume	Schmidt (2005) ^b
		<i>Pterogorgia citrina</i> (Esper 1792)	yellow sea whip	Ramsaroop (1976) ^b
	Plexauridae	<i>Eunicea</i> sp.	knobby sea rods	Schmidt (2005) ^b
		<i>Eunicea tourneforti</i> Milne Edwards & Haime 1857	gorgonian	UWIZM.2010.15.19 (2010) ^a ; (Ramsaroop 1976) ^b
		<i>Muricea elongata</i> Lamouroux 1821	gorgonian	UWIZM.2010.15.20 (2010) ^a ; (Ramsaroop 1976) ^b
		<i>Muricea</i> sp.	spiny sea fan	Schmidt (2005) ^b
		<i>Muriceopsis flavida</i> (Lamark 1815)	rough sea plume	UWIZM.2011.11.101 (2008) ^a ; Ramsaroop (1976) ^b ; Schmidt

				(2005) ^b
		<i>Plexaura flexuosa</i> Lamouroux 1821	bent sea rod	UWIZM.2011.11.96 (2009) ^a ; Ramsaroop (1976) ^b
		<i>Plexaurella dichotoma</i> (Esper 1791)	split pore sea rod	UWIZM.2010.15.21, 2011.11.146 (2009–2010) ^a ; Ramsaroop (1976) ^b
		<i>Plexaurella</i> sp.		Schmidt-Roach unpubl. ^b
	Anthothelidae	<i>Diodogorgia nodulifera</i> (Hargitt & Rogers 1901)		Ramsaroop (1976) ^b
		<i>Erythropodium caribaeorum</i> (Duchassaing & Michelotti 1860)	encrusting gorgonian	UWIZM.2010.15.17 (2010) ^a ; Schmidt (2005) ^b
	Briareidae	<i>Briareum asbestinum</i> (Pallas 1766)	corky sea finger	Phillip & Belford (unpubl.) ^{a,b} ; Schmidt (2005) ^b
Phylum Mollusca				
Class Bivalvia				
Order	Family	Species	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Arcoida	Arcidae	<i>Arca imbricata</i> Bruguiere, 1789	mossy ark	UWIZM.2011.14.732 (1968) ^b
		<i>Arca zebra</i> (Swainson, 1833)	turkey wing	UWIZM.2010.15.42 (2010) ^a
		<i>Barbatia candida</i> (Helbling, 1779)	white-beard ark	UWIZM.2011.1.348 (1955) ^a
	Noetiidae	<i>Arcopsis adamsi</i> (Dall, 1886)	Adams ark	UWIZM.2011.1.346 (1956) ^a
Veneroida	Lucinidae	<i>Codakia orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	tiger lucine	UWIZM.2011.1.384 (1955) ^a
	Semelidae	<i>Semele proficua</i> (Pulteney, 1799)	semele	UWIZM.2011.1.442 (1955) ^a
Class: Cephalopoda				
Order	Family	Species name & authority	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Octopoda	Octopodidae	<i>Octopus briareus</i> Robson, 1929	Caribbean reef octopus	UWIZM.2010.15.35 (2010) ^a
		<i>Octopus filiosus</i> Howell, 1867	Caribbean 2-spot octopus	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Octopus vulgaris</i> Cuvier, 1797	common octopus	Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Octopus</i> sp.	octopus	Phillip unpubl. ^b
Class: Gastropoda				
Order	Family	Species	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Archaeogastropoda	Fissurellidae	<i>Diodora arcuata</i> (Sowerby II 1862)	arcuate keyhole limpet	UWIZM.2011.1.32 (1956) ^a
		<i>Diodora cayenensis</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	Cayenne keyhole limpet	UWIZM.2011.14.526 ^a
		<i>Diodora listeri</i> (d'Orbigny, 1847)	keyhole limpet	UWIZM.2011.1.36, 2011.1.38 (1956–1976) ^a
		<i>Fissurella barbadensis</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	Barbados keyhole limpet	UWIZM.2011.1.22 (1956) ^a
		<i>Fissurella nimbosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	keyhole limpet	UWIZM.2011.1.14 (1956) ^a
		<i>Fissurella nodosa</i> (Born, 1778)	knobby keyhole limpet	UWIZM.2011.1.17 (1956) ^a
		<i>Fissurella rosea</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	rosy keyhole limpet	UWIZM.2011.1.2 (1954) ^a
		<i>Fissurella schrammii</i> Fischer 1857	keyhole limpet	MCZ.124618 ^b
		<i>Hemitoma octoradiata</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	eight-rib emarginula	UWIZM.2011.1.70 (1956) ^a
	Lottiidae	<i>Lottia antillarum</i> G. B. Sowerby I, 1834	southern limpet	UWIZM.2011.1.52 (1956) ^a
	Tegulidae	<i>Cittarium pica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	West Indian topsnail	UWIZM.2011.1.71 ^a ; UWIZM.2011.14.458 (1968) ^b

		<i>Tegula excavata</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	green-base tegula	UWIZM.2011.1.80, 2010.36.285 (1956, 1970) ^a
		<i>Tegula lividomaculata</i> (C. B. Adams 1845)	West Indian tegula	UWIZM.2011.1.73 (1955) ^a
		<i>Tegula excavata</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	green-base tegula	UWIZM.2011.1.75, 2010.36.285 (1955–1970) ^{a,b}
		<i>Tegula fasciata</i> (Born 1778)	silky tegula	MCZ.148523 ^b
		<i>Tegula lividomaculata</i> (C.B. Adams, 1845)	West Indian tegula	UWIZM.2010.36.374 (1970) ^a
	Turbinidae	<i>Lithopoma phoebium</i> (Roding, 1798)	longspine starsnail	UWIZM.2010.36.318 (1970) ^a
		<i>Lithopoma brevispina</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	starsnail	UWIZM.2011.1.108 (1955) ^a
		<i>Lithopoma phoebium</i> (Roding, 1798)	longspine starsnail	UWIZM.2011.1.531 (1956) ^a
		<i>Lithopoma tectum</i> (Lightfoot, 1786)	West Indian star snail	Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Lithopoma tuber</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	green starsnail	UWIZM.2010.15.39, 2010.15.38, 2011.14.427 (2010) ^{a,b}
		<i>Turbo castanea</i> Gmelin, 1791	chestnut turban	UWIZM.2011.1.111 (1955) ^a
Archaeopulmonata	Ellobiidae	<i>Melampus coffea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	coffee melampus	UWIZM.2010.36.452 (2009) ^b
Caenogastropoda	Batillariidae	<i>Lampanella minima</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	West Indian false cerith	UWIZM.2011.1.172 (1956) ^a
	Cerithiidae	<i>Cerithium eburneum</i> Bruguière, 1792	ivory cerith	UWIZM.2011.1.186 (1955) ^a
		<i>Cerithium litteratum</i> (Born, 1778)	stocky cerith	Belford unpubl. ^a
	Epitoniidae	<i>Epitonium lamellosum</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	lamellose wentletrap	UWIZM.2011.1.145 (1955) ^a
	Planaxidae	<i>Angiola lineata</i> (da Costa, 1778)	dwarf Atlantic planaxis	UWIZM.2011.1.492 (1956) ^a
Cycloneritimorpha	Neritidae	<i>Nerita fulgurans</i> Gmelin, 1791	Antillean nerite	UWIZM.2011.1.82, 2010.36.290, 2010.15.40 (1956–2010) ^{a,b}
		<i>Nerita tessellata</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	checkered nerite	UWIZM.2010.36.265 (1963) ^b
Heterobranchia	Siphonariidae	<i>Siphonaria pectinata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	false limpet	UWIZM.2010.15.50 (2010) ^a
Littorinimorphia	Cassidae	<i>Cypraeassis testiculus</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	reticulated cowry helmet	MCZ.148648 ^b
	Cypraeidae	<i>Luria cinerea</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	Atlantic gray cowrie	UWIZM.2011.1.227 ^a
		<i>Macrocypraea zebra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	measled cowrie	UWIZM.2011.1.226 (1955) ^a
	Hipponicidae	<i>Hipponix antiquatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)	white hoofsnail	UWIZM.2011.1.236, 2010.15.41, 2010.36.373, 2011.14.467 (1955–2010) ^{a,b}
	Littorinidae	<i>Echinolittorina ziczac</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	zebra periwinkle	UWIZM.2011.1.88, 2010.36.274, 2011.14.466 (1955–1968) ^{a,b}
		<i>Littoraria flava</i> (King & Broderip, 1832)	periwinkle	UWIZM.2011.1.89 (1955) ^a
	Naticidae	<i>Naticarius canrena</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	colorful moonsnail	UWIZM.2011.1.221 (1955) ^a
		<i>Polinices uberinus</i> (d'Orbigny, 1842)	dwarf white moonsnail	UWIZM.2011.1.162 (1956) ^a
	Ranellidae	<i>Monoplex nicobaricus</i> (Röding, 1798)	goldmouth triton	UWIZM.2011.1.126 ^a

	Strombidae	<i>Lobatus gigas</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	queen conch	9.56 in UWIZM register (1970) ^a
		<i>Lobatus raninus</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	hawkwing conch	UWIZM.2010.36.234 (1970) ^a
	Triviidae	<i>Niveria nix</i> (Schilder, 1922)	snowy trivium	UWIZM.2010.36.266 (1970) ^b
	Vermetidae	<i>Dendropoma irregulare</i> (d'Orbigny, 1841)	irregular worm shell	UWIZM.2010.36.514 (2009) ^b
Neogastropoda	Buccinidae	<i>Engina turbinella</i> (Kiener, 1836)	spotted lesser whelk	UWIZM.2010.15.44 (2010) ^a
		<i>Gemophos auritulus</i> (Link, 1807)	gaudy cantharus	UWIZM.2010.15.43 (2010) ^a
		<i>Pisania pusio</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	miniature trumpet triton	MCZ.75913 ^b
	Columbellidae	<i>Mitrella ocellata</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	white-spot dovesnail	UWIZM.2011.1.212 (1956) ^a
	Conidae	<i>Conus ermineus</i> Born, 1778	cone shell	UWIZM.2011.1.124 ^a
		<i>Conus mus</i> Hwass in Bruguière, 1792	mouse cone	UWIZM.2010.36.233 (1970) ^b
	Fasciariidae	<i>Leucozonia nassa</i> (Gmelin 1791)	chestnut nassa	MCZ.75917 ^b
	Muricidae	<i>Plicopurpura patula</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	widemouth rocksnail	UWIZM.2010.36.346, 2011.14.457 (1968–1970) ^{a,b}
	Nassaridae	<i>Nassarius</i> sp.	dog whelk	UWIZM.2010.15.45 (2010) ^a
		<i>Nassarius albus</i> (Say, 1826)	white nassa	UWIZM.2011.1.168 (1956) ^a
	Volutidae	<i>Voluta musica</i> Linnaeus, 1757	music volute	UWIZM.2010.15.33, 2012.29.15, 2010.36.304, 2011.14.459 (1968–2012) ^a ; Belford unpubl. ^b
	Mitridae	<i>Mitra nodulosa</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	beaded mitre	UWIZM.2011.1.482 (1956) ^a
Nudibranchia	Chromodorididae	unidentified	seaslug	UWIZM.2010.36.582 (1988) ^a
Patellogastropoda	Acmaeidae	<i>Lottia antillarum</i> G. B. Sowerby I, 1834	southern limpet	UWIZM.2010.36.371 (1970) ^a
Sacoglossa	Plakobranchidae	<i>Elysia crispa</i> Mörch, 1863	lettuce seaslug	UWIZM.2010.15.32 (2010) ^a
Class: Polyplacophora				
Order	Family	Species	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Chitonida	Callistoplacidae	<i>Calloplax janeirensis</i> (Gray, 1828)	ornate chiton	Baboolal <i>et al.</i> (1981) ^a
	Chitonidae	<i>Acanthopleura granulata</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	West Indian fuzzy chiton	Baboolal <i>et al.</i> (1981) ^a
		<i>Chiton tuberculatus</i> Linnaeus, 1758	West Indian green chiton	UWIZM.2010.36.528 (1957) ^a
	Ischnochitonidae	<i>Ischnochiton pectinatus</i> (Sowerby II, 1840)	chiton	Baboolal <i>et al.</i> (1981) ^a
		<i>Ischnochiton striolatus</i> (Gray, 1828)	chiton	Baboolal <i>et al.</i> (1981) ^a
		<i>Stenoplax purpurascens</i> (C. B. Adams, 1845)	Caribbean slender chiton	Baboolal <i>et al.</i> (1981) ^a
Phylum Annelida				
Class Polychaeta				
Order	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Accession no. & notes
Amphinomida	Amphinomidae	<i>Hermodice carunculata</i> (Pallas, 1766)	bearded fireworm	UWIZM.2012.29.14 (2012) ^a ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
Phyllodocida	Nereididae	<i>Platynereis dumerilii</i> (Audoin and Milne Edwards 1834)	Dumeril's clam worm	UWIZM.2010.15.54 (2010) ^a
Phylum Arthropoda				
Class Malacostraca				
Order	Family	Species	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Decapoda	Aethridae	<i>Hepatus pudibundus</i> (Herbst, 1785)	box crab	Stonely (1970) ^a
	Carpiliidae	<i>Carpilius corallinus</i> (Herbst, 1783)	batwing coral crab	UWIZM.2010.15.25 (2010) ^a
	Diogenidae	<i>Calcinus tibicen</i> (Herbst, 1791)	orangeclaw hermit crab	UWIZM.2010.15.24 (2010) ^a
		<i>Paguristes</i> sp.	Hermit crab	UWIZM.2013.22 (2011) ^a

	Eriphiidae	<i>Eriphia gonagra</i> (Fabricius, 1781)	redfinger rubble crab	USNM.137739 (1970); UWIZM.2010.15.23 (2010) ^a
	Grapsidae	<i>Pachygrapsus transversus</i> (Gibbes, 1850)	mottled shore crab	USNM.139294 (1970) ^a
	Majidae	<i>Macrocoeloma trispinosum nodipes</i> (Desbonne, 1867)	decorator crab	UWIZM.2013.21.12 (1970) ^a
		<i>Microphrys bicornutus</i> (Latreille, 1825)	decorator crab	UWIZM.2013.21.30 (1970) ^a
		<i>Mithraculus coryphe</i> (Herbst, 1801)	nodose clinging crab	USNM.137756 (1970) ^a
		<i>Mithraculus forceps</i> A. Milne Edwards, 1875	red-ridged clinging crab	Stonely (1970) ^a
		<i>Mithraculus sculptus</i> (Lamarck, 1818)	green clinging crab	UWIZM.2010.15.26, 2012.29.8 (2010, 2012) ^a ; USNM.137758 (1970) ^a
		<i>Mithrax verrucosus</i> H. Milne Edwards, 1832	paved clinging crab	UWIZM.2013.21.10 (1971) ^a
	Menippidae	<i>Menippe nodifrons</i> Stimpson, 1859	Cuban stone crab	Stonely (1970) ^a
	Palinuridae	<i>Panulirus argus</i> (Latreille, 1804)	Caribbean spiny lobster	UWIZM.2013.20 (2011) ^a
	Panopeidae	<i>Panopeus herbstii</i> H. Milne Edwards, 1834	Atlantic mud crab	UWIZM.2010.15.31, 2012.29.7 (2010; 2012) ^a
	Parthenopidae	<i>Leiolambrus nitidus</i> Rathburn, 1901	white elbow crab	1940 ^b
	Percnidae	<i>Percnon gibbesi</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1853)	Sally lightfoot crab	USNM.139295 (1970) ^a
	Porcellanidae	<i>Petrolisthes armatus</i> (Gibbes, 1850)	green porcelain crab	Stonely (1970) ^a
		<i>Petrolisthes galathinus</i> (Bosc, 1802)	porcelain crab	USNM.141359 (1970) ^a
	Portunidae	<i>Callinectes exasperatus</i> (Gerstaeker, 1856)	rugose swimming crab	Stonely (1970) ^a
		<i>Callinectes sapidus</i> Rathbun, 1896	blue crab	UWIZM.2010.15.28 (2010) ^a
	Scyllaridae	<i>Parribacus antarcticus</i> (Lund, 1793)	slipper lobster	UWIZM.2010.15.27 (2010) ^a
	Xanthidae	<i>Cataleptodius floridanus</i> (Gibbes, 1850)	spoonfinger rubble crab	Stonely (1970) ^a
		<i>Chlorodiella longimana</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1834)	longhand rubble crab	Stonely (1970) ^a
		<i>Cyclodius maculatus</i> (Stimpson, 1860)	xanthid crab	Stonely (1970) ^a
		<i>Platypodiella spectabilis</i> (Herbst, 1794)	gaudy clown crab	USNM.139264 (1970) ^a
Isopoda	Tylidae	<i>Tylos wegeneri</i> Vandel, 1952	waterlouse	UWIZM.2010.15.30 (2010) ^a
Stomatopoda	Gonodactylidae	<i>Neogonodactylus brendini</i> (Manning, 1969)	mantis shrimp	UWI.33 (1969) ^a
	Pseudosquillaidae	<i>Pseudosquilla ciliata</i> (Fabricius, 1787)	mantis shrimp	UWIZM.2012.29.6 (2012) ^a
Class: Maxillopoda				
Order	Family	Species	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Lepadiformes	Lepadidae	<i>Lepas pectinata</i> Spengler, 1793	goose barnacle	UWIZM.2010.15.29 (2010) ^a
Sessilia	Chthamalidae	<i>Chthamalus bisinuatus</i> (Pilsbry, 1916)	barnacle	(2009) ^a
	Pyrgomatidae	<i>Ceratoconcha quarta</i> (Kolosváry, 1947)	barnacle	(1971) ^a
	Tetracitidae	<i>Tetracitella stalactifera</i> (Lamarck, 1818)	ribbed barnacle	(1974) ^a

Phylum Echinodermata				
Class Asteroidea				
Order	Family	Species	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Valvatida	Ophidiasteridae	<i>Linckia guildingi</i> Gray, 1840	common comet star	UWI.15 (echinoderm register, UWI Zoology Museum) ^a
Class: Crinoidea				
Order	Family	Species	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Comatulidae	Tropiometridae	<i>Tropiometra carinata</i> (Lamarck, 1816)	elegant feather star	Schmidt-Roach unpubl. ^b
Class: Echinoidea				
Order	Family	Species	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Arbacioida	Arbaciidae	<i>Arbacia punctulata</i> (Lamarck, 1816)	common arbacia urchin	UWIZM.2011.22.31 (2011) ^a
Camarodonta	Echinometridae	<i>Echinometra lucunter lucunter</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	rock-boring urchin	UWIZM.2010.15.51, 2011.22.8, 2010.15.51 (1988–2011) ^a ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
Class: Holothuroidea				
Order	Family	Species	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Aspidochirotid ^a	Holothuriidae	<i>Holothuria cubana</i> Ludwig, 1875	Cuban sea cucumber	UWIZM.2012.29.3 (2012) ^a
		<i>Holothuria grisea</i> Selenka, 1867	Grey sea cucumber	UWIZM.2010.31.1, 2010.31.2, 2011.21.6, 2011.21.9, 2011.21.10, 2012.29.5 (2010–2012) ^a
		<i>Holothuria surinamensis</i> Ludwig, 1875	Surinam sea cucumber	UWIZM.2011.21.15, 2011.21.21, 2011.21.23, 2011.21.24, 2012.29.4 (1983–2012) ^a
	Stichopodidae	<i>Isostichopus badiotus</i> (Selenka, 1867)	three-rowed sea cucumber	UWIZM.2011.21.3, 2011.21.4, 2011.21.5, 2012.29.2 (2008–2012) ^a
Class: Ophiuroidea				
Order	Family	Species	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Ophiurida	Ophiactidae	<i>Ophiactis savignyi</i> (Müller & Troschel, 1842)	six armed brittle star	UWIZM.2010.15.52 (2010) ^a
	Ophiodermatidae	<i>Ophioderma appressa</i> (Say, 1825)	banded-arm brittle star	(2012) ^a
Phylum: Chordata				
Class: Actinopterygii				
Order	Family	Species	Common name	Accession no. & notes
Anguilliformes	Muraenidae	<i>Echidna catenata</i> (Bloch 1795)	chain moray	UWIZM.2010.15.7 (2010) ^a
		<i>Gymnothorax funebris</i> Ranzani 1839	green moray	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
Batrachoidiformes	Batrachoididae	<i>Opsanus</i> sp.		TCWC 15715.05 (2012) ^a
Perciformes	Acanthuridae	<i>Acanthurus bahianus</i> Castelnau 1855	ocean surgeonfish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Acanthurus chirurgus</i> (Bloch 1787)	doctorfish	TCWC15710.07, C15718.05 (2012) ^a ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Acanthurus</i> sp.		Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
	Blenniidae	<i>Ophioblennius macclurei</i> (Silvester 1915)	redlip blenny	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Scartella cristata</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	molly miller	TCWC15710.09, 15715.01

				(2012) ^a
	Carangidae	<i>Trachinotus goodei</i> Jordan & Evermann 1896	palometa	Belford ^{a,b}
		unidentified sp.		TCWC15715.06 (2012) ^a
	Chaenopsidae	<i>Acanthemblemaria maria</i> Böhlke 1961	secretary blenny	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
	Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon capistratus</i> Linnaeus 1758	four-eye butterfly fish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Chaetodon ocellatus</i> Bloch 1787	spotfin butterflyfish	UWIZM.2010.15.5, 2010.15.6 (2010) ^a
		<i>Chaetodon sedentarius</i> Poey 1860	reef butterflyfish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Chaetodon striatus</i> Linnaeus 1758	banded butterflyfish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
	Clinidae	unidentified sp.		TCWC15710.03 (2012) ^a
	Gerreidae	<i>Eucinostomus melanopterus</i> (Bleeker 1863)	flagfin mojarra	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
	Gobiidae	<i>Bathygobius soporator</i> (Valenciennes 1837)	frillfin goby	TCWC15718.07 (2012) ^a
		<i>Bathygobius</i> sp.		TCWC15710.05, 15710.08, 15715.04 (2012) ^a
		unidentified sp.		TCWC15710.01, 15710.04 (2012) ^a
	Haemulidae	<i>Anisotremus virginicus</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	porkfish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
		<i>Haemulon aurolineatum</i> Cuvier 1830	tomtate grunt	Belford unpubl. ^b
		<i>Haemulon chrysargyreum</i> Günther 1859	smallmouth grunt	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Haemulon flavolineatum</i> (Desmarest 1823)	French grunt	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Haemulon melanurum</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	cottonwick	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Haemulon sciurus</i> (Shaw 1803)	bluestriped grunt	Belford unpubl. ^b
		<i>Haemulon</i> sp.		TCWC15718.09 (2012) ^a
	Labridae	<i>Halichoeres bivittatus</i> (Bloch 1791)	slippery dick	TCWC15718.03 (2012) ^a , UWIZM.2010.15.8 (2010) ^a ; Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
		<i>Halichoeres radiatus</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	puddingwife	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Halichoeres</i> sp.		TCWC15715.1, 15715.09, 15718.06 (2012) ^a
	Labrisomidae	<i>Labrisomus bucciferus</i> Poey 1868	puffcheek blenny	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Labrisomus gobio</i> (Valenciennes 1836)	palehead blenny	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Malacoctenus aurolineatus</i> Smith 1957	goldline blenny	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Paraclinus nigripinnis</i> (Steindachner 1867)	blackfin blenny	TCWC15715.02 (2012) ^a
		unidentified sp.		TCWC15710.02 (2012) ^a
	Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus griseus</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	grey snapper	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Lutjanus synagris</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	lane snapper	TCWC15718.08 (2012) ^a
	Mullidae	<i>Pseudupeneus maculatus</i> (Bloch 1793)	spotted goatfish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
	Pomacanthidae	<i>Pomacanthus paru</i> (Bloch 1787)	French angelfish	Schmidt-Roach (unpubl.) ^b

		<i>Pomacanthus</i> sp.	queen or french	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
	Pomacentridae	<i>Abudefduf saxatilis</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	sergeant major	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^b
		<i>Abudefduf</i> sp.		TCWC15715.08 (2012) ^a
		<i>Abudefduf taurus</i> (Müller & Troschel 1848)	night sergeant	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Microspathodon chrysurus</i> (Cuvier 1830)	yellowtail damselfish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Stegastes adustus</i> (Troschel 1865)	dusky damselfish	TCWC15710.06, 15715.11, 15718.02 (2012) ^a
		<i>Stegastes diencaeus</i> (Jordan & Rutter 1897)	longfin damselfish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Stegastes leucostictus</i> (Müller & Troschel 1848)	beaugregory	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Stegastes planifrons</i> (Cuvier 1830)	threespot damselfish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Stegastes</i> sp.	damselfish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
		<i>Stegastes variabilis</i> (Castelnau 1855)	cocoa damselfish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
	Scaridae	<i>Scarus iseri</i> (Bloch 1789)	striped parrotfish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^{a,b}
		<i>Scarus taeniopterus</i> Lesson 1829	princess parrotfish	Phillip & Belford unpubl. ^a
		<i>Sparisoma</i> sp.		TCWC15715.12 (2012) ^a
		<i>Sparisoma viride</i> (Bonnaterre 1788)	stoplight parrotfish	TCWC15718.04 (2012) ^a
Ophidiiformes	Ophidiidae	<i>Brotula</i> sp.		TCWC15715.07 (2012) ^a
Scorpaeniformes	Scorpaenidae	<i>Scorpaena plumieri</i> Bloch 1789	spotted scorpionfish	TCWC15718.01 (2012) ^a
Tetraodontiformes	Tetraodontidae	<i>Sphoeroides testudineus</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	checkered pufferfish	TCWC15715.03, 15715.13 (2012) ^a ; UWIZM.2010.15.5, 2010.15.6 (2010) ^a

Table 2: Checklist of the macrobiota of Salybia and Grande L'Anse reefs. Phyla are arranged in phylogenetic order, but other taxonomic classes are arranged in alphabetical order.

^aSalybia Reef

^bGrande L'Anse Reef

Discussion

The present study, with its somewhat cursory examination of two reefs, recorded a macrobiotic community of approximately 257 species in 134 families, 53 orders, 23 classes and 11 phyla. As this was apparently the first attempt to compile a broad, taxonomic-based species list for a marginal Caribbean coral reef, the discussion of results is at times general. Each taxon is discussed in turn, and where possible attempts were made to compare the findings of the present study with others on a taxon-by-taxon basis. Because Trinidad's environmental and biogeographic settings are unique, it was not obvious which reefs (*i.e.*, insular *vs.* continental, and/or mainland continental *vs.* offshore continental islands, and/or northwestern *vs.* southwestern Atlantic) were most suitable for comparison.

Even though scleractinian coral diversity was low compared to other reefs in the Caribbean, the two coral

systems did appear to contain considerable biodiversity. With few exceptions, the main coral-reef-associated taxa were represented. Missing phyla were microscopic or cryptic, sessile, encrusting organisms (*e.g.*, members of the kingdom Bacteria, and phyla Bryozoa, Foraminifera and Tunicata), which can represent a substantial portion of coral reef biodiversity. Several studies have shown that the microhabitats used by the cryptobiota can be substantial-framework cavities, for instance, account for 30–70% of reef volume and reef-associated species diversity [26–38]. This microhabitat type, and the microbiota were not the focus of the present study, and therefore remain an important gap to be addressed.

The phyla that were the focus of the study were probably inadequately sampled, and therefore much of their species diversity not captured. The extent of the underrepresentation will not be homogenous as some taxa lend themselves more readily to the methods used in the surveys. Sponges for instance, which play an

important role in sustaining coral reefs by retaining and recycling of nutrients and energy within coral reefs, *i.e.*, they are the base of a sponge-loop feeding cycle, tend to account for a significant proportion of reef species diversity in many Caribbean coral reefs [39,40]. The present study reported only six species, whereas Diaz [41,42], for instance, reported about 40 species from shallow reef habitats in the Bocas del Toro archipelago on the Caribbean coast of Panama. Our study is likely to be an underestimate of sponge diversity on the two reefs. No special attention was paid to cryptic sponges (*e.g.*, boring sponges or those occupying cavities and crevices). Sponge diversity in these types of habitats can be substantial reported 220 species of sponges in sub-rubble communities in Bonaire and Curaçao [37]. Additionally, deeper water habitats were not explored at Salybia, and even though sponge diversity was better captured at Grande L'Anse Reef, sampling was incidental and limited by 1) the use of snorkelling and duck diving, rather than scuba, in > 3 m of water; 2) the narrow time window during which visibility was good enough for photo- and video-graphic methods; and 3) only a single sampling event was successfully conducted at Grande L'Anse Reef.

It was difficult to make definitive conclusions regarding the richness of the algal assemblage. The total of 25 (+5 unidentified) species from the present study compared favourably with a survey of the algae of T&T by Duncan & Lee Lum [21], which listed a total of 18 species from Salybia and Grande L'Anse reefs. However, when compared to single, within-country coral reefs in the region, 30 species indicated a depauperate flora. Phillips, et al. [43], for example, recorded 77 species for the Miskito bank in Nicaragua. On the other hand, the T&T marine flora did not appear depauperate compared to the rest of the region. In their study, Duncan & Lee Lum listed a total of 198 species of marine macroalgae for T&T, which compares favourably with Taylor's [44] list of 127 species of marine algae for the Lesser Antilles, and Earle's [45] ~120 species for the Atlantic coast of Panama. Additionally, Wysor & de Clerk (2003) collected 36 ochrophytes on the Caribbean coast of Panama, which is close to the total number of T&T species in this order. Perhaps these trends indicated that the reefs in the present study represented either species-poor or under-sampled locales within a national assemblage that was itself not depauperate. Incidentally, Duncan & Lee Lum's [21] list included 55 chlorophytes; 33 ochrophytes (phaeophytes); and 110 rhodophytes for the entire country. This national trend of relative importance of the three phyla, in terms of number of species (*i.e.*, Rhodophyta > Chlorophyta > Ochrophyta), was upheld by the reefs in the present study (Table 1).

Cnidarian, particularly scleractinian, diversity was richer

than expected based on recent visits to the reefs. Both reef flats were overwhelmingly dominated by branching species of *Porites*, with the occasional *Siderastrea radians*. In addition, *Porites astreoides* and *Favia fragrum*, were recorded on Salybia Reef crest, but they were rare. Other species of hard coral were included for Salybia Reef on the basis of the literature and coral skeletons in UWI's Zoology Museum (some collected as recently as 2009) (Table 2), and are likely to be very rare on the reef. Some species, such as *Acropora* sp. and *Montastrea cavernosa*, were more typical of the fore reef, an area not well explored due to poor visibility and strong water conditions. The present study reported 14 species of scleractinian corals, all of which are hermatypic. This compares favourably with Trinidad's total hermatypic coral diversity of 17 species [46]. Kenny's list for Salybia Reef was very similar to what is presented in table 2 (present study). The only species listed for Salybia that Kenny [46] did not include was *Oculina* sp. Also, he did not recognise the various branching forms of *Porites* as separate species as was done in the present study, but reported the morph at Salybia as *furcata*. In terms of similarity based on species composition, Trinidad's reefs (with 17 species) compared most closely with those of Venezuela (20 species; ~60% similarity), and are very distinct from those of the Dutch islands (Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao – 43 species; ~40% similarity) or Brazil (15 species; ~20% similarity) [47]. Non-scleractinian species listed here that are important components of Caribbean reef flats are the zoanthids and *Millepora alcicornis*. *Millepora* spp. are important framework builders on parts of reefs throughout the world [48]. Other cnidarians belonged mainly to the order Alcyonacea, commonly referred to as gorgonians. Apart from *Erythropodium caribaeorum*, these are deeper water species found on the upper fore reef at both Salybia and Grande L'Anse.

The Mollusca and Arthropoda were the most dominant groups on the reef flat, both having taken advantage of the large volume of reef space accounted for by cryptic habitats, especially in the coral rubble. It is expected that the data presented here are underestimates of the species diversity of both groups since: 1) only a small fraction of the coral rubble has been sampled; and 2) other cryptic habitats, such as on the reef crest and fore reef, have not been explored. The literature was a very poor source of information for comparison with the present study. Zimmerman, et al. [49] found 64 species of molluscs in reef-flat environments in the Bahamas, which was close in species number to the 66 found in the present study. Gischler [50], in another study, found only six species of molluscs in coral rubble in Florida. These figures suggest that the Salybia Reef mollusc assemblage was indeed species-rich. Similarly, there was very little published information on the species diversity of coral reef

decapods, especially those associated with shallow backreef environments, but what is there provided mixed indications regarding the diversity of this assemblage in our study. Werding, et al. [51] reported 28 species of porcellanid crabs from Venezuela, and 19 for tropical Brazil, whereas there were only two in present study. This indicated that either our study grossly undersampled that assemblage, or that decapod communities were very impoverished. Interestingly perhaps, the two species reported for Salybia Reef were highlighted by Werding, et al. [51] as the two most widely distributed species in the region, and described as possibly representing species complexes. In contrast, Giraldez, et al. found 34 species of decapods in a study conducted in shallow, subtidal coral reef habitats in Brazil. This compares well the 25 species reported in the present study. Taken together, it appeared that the coral rubble microhabitats on Salybia Reef represented important reef *refugia* that accommodated a substantial proportion of the reef's biodiversity.

In his recent review of echinoderms in the Greater Caribbean, Alvarado [52] listed 433 species, or 6.5% of the global species diversity of the phylum. When compared to the rest of the region, Trinidad & Tobago, with 55 species, has a depauperate echinoderm assemblage, the third poorest of the region. There is at least one error in his data, as Trinidad & Tobago, contrary to his reporting, has more than one species of echinoid; we list two species in the present study, and UWI's Zoology Museum has specimens of 11 T&T species in its holdings. Even so, species diversity in all classes in the phylum was low on the two reefs when compared to T&T and the region.

The fish data from the present study indicated a depauperate assemblage when compared to other reefs in

several parts of the Atlantic Ocean (Table 3). In terms of total species richness, Salybia and Grande L'Anse reefs, combined, were closest to most the reefs of the central Atlantic islands, which had the lowest species richness of all reefs presented. In other words, the data indicates that the fish assemblage of Salybia and Grande L'Anse reefs is species poor. Turbid-water reefs are known to show more depauperate faunas than their clear-water counterparts. Bejarano & Appeldoorn [53], for instance, recorded higher species richness in clear-water sites than in turbid ones (16 vs. 7, respectively) for reefs studied along a 20 km stretch along the south coast of Puerto Rico. In fact, their analyses showed that seawater turbidity had the greatest power in accounting for variation in fish species richness, surpassing even rugosity and coral cover.

Another possible contributing factor to the low species richness recorded in the present study might be sampling biases. For instance, fish surveys were conducted only during the spring low tides on both reefs. Also, at Salybia, efforts were restricted to the reef flat, whereas at Grande L'Anse records were primarily for the deeper reef area to the west. Whereas the Salybia fish fauna was surveyed on several occasions, the records of the fish fauna at Grande L'Anse was based primarily on incidental observations made during a single snorkelling survey to determine the zonation of cnidarians on the reef. It is well known that spatial and temporal partitioning of the use of the reef is one strategy utilised by fishes [54,55]; thus any sampling strategy that is limited where either of these factors is concerned, may provide biased results (*e.g.*, only individuals active during the daytime low and early rising tides would have been sighted, which implies that fish species that remain in *refugia* during this time of day may have been missed).

Fish families	Western north Atlantic islands		South American shelf			Brazilian offshore islands			Central Atlantic		
	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	NE T'dad		Brazil	Atol das Rocas	Fernando de Noronha	Trindade Island	St Paul's Rocks	Ascension Island	St Helena Island
			present study*	Paraíba							
Acanthuridae	3	3	2(1)	3	3	3	3	2		2	1
Apogonidae	12	13		5	6	2	1	1	1	1	2
Balistidae	6	4		3	3	2	3	4	2	3	2
Blenniidae	5	5	2	5	5	4	3	3	2	3	3
Bothidae	4	3		1	1	2	1	1		3	2
Chaenopsidae	1	13	1	2	1						
Chaetodontidae	5	5	4	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	2
Diodontidae	3	2		3	3	1	2	2	1	3	2
Gobiesocidae	1	6		3	3	1		1			
Gobiidae	15	37	1(2)	16	9	6	6	4	1	2	2
Grammatidae	1	3		1	1		1				
Haemulidae	7	10	6(1)	9	8	3	4	1			

Holocentridae	8	9		3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Labridae	16	12	2(1)	11	10	5	6	7	4	4	4
Labrisomidae	3	20	4(1)	9	9	4	3	2	2		
Lutjanidae	11	13	2	7	5	1	2	1	1	1	
Monacanthidae	8	5		4	7	1	2	3	2	1	2
Mullidae	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	2		1	1
Muraenidae	14	10	2	8	6	9	8	5	8	10	6
Opistognathidae		1		2	2			1			
Ostraciidae	4	5		3	2	3	2	1		1	1
Pomacanthidae	3	5	1(1)	4	5	2	3	2	2	2	
Pomacentridae	10	12	7(2)	7	8	4	4	5	4	3	4
Priacanthidae	4	2		1	2	1	1	1		1	3
Scaridae	13	11	3(1)	7	9	3	3	3	4	1	1
Scorpaenidae	5	6	1	2	4			1	1	3	4
Serranidae	33	21		12	24	5	6	10	3	5	5
Sparidae	4	2		3	8			1		1	1
Syngnathidae	8	6		1	2	1	1				1
Tetraodontidae	3	2	1	1	3		2			1	2
Tripterygiidae		4		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other families†	25	18	5(2)	13	19	4	8	4	3	9	13

†Antennariidae, Aulostomidae, Batrachoididae, Carangidae, Cirrhitidae, Congridae, Ephippidae, Fistulariidae, Gerreidae, Kyphosidae, Ophidiidae, Pempheridae and Synodontidae

*numbers indicate identified species; number in brackets represent additional (incompletely identified) species.

Table 3: Number of species per family in the present study and other reefs in selected territories in the Atlantic Ocean. Adapted from Floeter & Gasparini [56].

Conclusion and Recommendations

While it is undoubted that these two systems are depauperate, it is difficult to conclude with any certainty to what extent the results presented are representative of the true species richness; on the one hand, the literature gives conflicting implications, and on the other, the species list presented here may be far from complete, as many taxa and microhabitats were not adequately surveyed. It does appear that some taxa were more heavily studied than others; *e.g.*, there were focussed surveys for crabs, octocorals [20], algae [21] and fishes. While there were some general surveys [18], these often covered only epibenthic organisms; thus, there were under-sampled habitats including cryptic habitats (*e.g.*, sponge internal cavities, and framework cavities, both natural and artificial) and deeper-water habitats (especially at Salybia). Though coral rubble was sampled on the Salybia back reef, the total volume sampled was about 1000 cm³, only one-third of the 3000 cm³ minimum recommended by Meesters, et al. [37]. Symbionts, which can comprise a substantial proportion of coral reef biodiversity, were largely ignored in the surveys that contributed to the species list. If the results of Villamizar's & Laughlin's [57] survey of a single species of sponge, which hosted as many as 139 species, including fishes, crustaceans, ophiuroids and molluscs, is any

indication, then it may be safe to conclude that at least some groups were underestimated in the present survey.

The survey also implied that Salybia Reef was more species-rich than Grande L'Anse; however, this may not be reflective of real patterns of diversity, but rather patterns in sampling effort and taxonomic interest since greater effort was expended at Salybia than Grande L'Anse. The only exception was the sampling of deeper reef habitats at Grande L'Anse but not at Salybia. On the other hand Grande L'Anse Reef is found in more turbid waters, and has somewhat lower rugosity (DAT Phillip, pers. obs), conditions which Bejarano & Appeldoorn [53] reported to have negative effects on fish diversity.

Depauperate or not, the species found on these two reefs are typical of Caribbean coral reef systems, since the main coral reef associated taxa were represented. We recommend that instead of making assumptions regarding marginal coral systems, that a programme of biological surveys be implemented to gain an understanding of what is actually out there. In the next phase, we need to deepen our studies of these reefs to determine their trajectories-*e.g.*, are they healthy/unhealthy, improving/declining/stable and to develop an understanding of the processes underlying these trends. We agree with Hughes, et al. [58,59], that

conventional monitoring is insufficient, and that monitoring should be adapted to include processes responsible for the maintenance of healthy coral ecosystems [60-66].

Acknowledgements

Firstly, the authors thank the students of UWI's Department of Life Science's undergraduate field course (2009-2012) for assistance with field collecting. We express our gratitude to M.C. Díaz (sponges), C. Messing (crinoids) and J. Gobin (polychaetes), who assisted with identification of specimens, and J.B. Alemu I for insightful comments on the draft manuscript. This research was partially funded by DATP and the American Museum of Natural History, Lerner Gray Fund for Marine Research grant. The Department of Life Sciences of UWI provided field support and allowed access to its biological collections. Undergraduate student researchers from Martin Methodist College.

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