

# BRINGING THE BEACH TO YOU

## COCOS KEELING ISLANDS



**BOERGESENIA SPECIES**

This green algae has fluid filled sacs that form clumps. It is found in shallow waters on reef flats in the intertidal and subtidal zones.



**FUNNEL WEED**

This brown algae has fan-shaped fronds that create a funnel shape.



**CAULERPA SPECIES**

Some species of this green algae are eaten under the names of 'green caviar' or 'sea grapes'.



**SEAGRASS**

Seagrasses are marine flowering plants with leaves, roots, flowers and seeds. They are extremely important as they stabilise sandy sea floors and provide habitat and food.



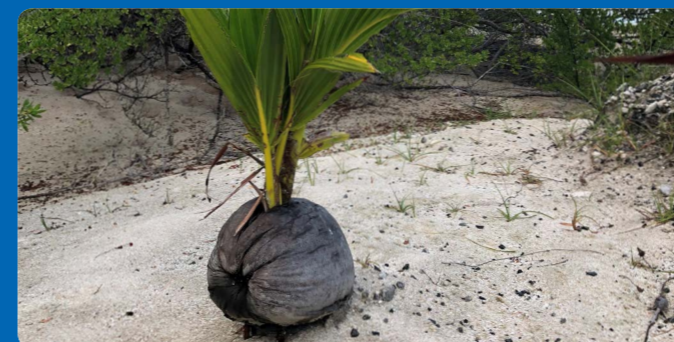
**ORNATE BROWN ALGAE**

Also known as the 3 cornered hat algae, it has branched holdfasts that attach the algae to a substrate. The spiny ornamented leaf structure is bouyant and will float if detached from the stalk.



**DEAD MAN'S FINGERS**

This dark green algae has tube-like forked branches, a firm but spongy texture and belongs to a group of algae called *Codium*.



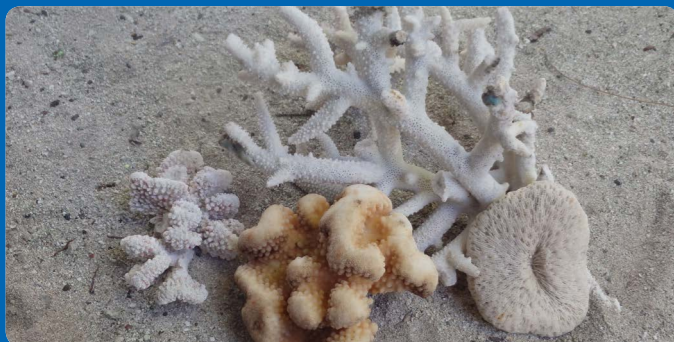
**COCONUT**

Coconuts can float for long distances across the ocean and then put down roots again when they are washed ashore. Coconut trees can be planted to protect against coastal erosion.



**COWRY SHELL**

Cowries generally live on sheltered inshore reefs, feeding mainly on sponges. Cowries are spirally coiled with the last coil of the shell wrapped around the whole shell.



**CORAL**

Corals are colonies of tiny tubular animals called polyps. The polyps contain tiny 'symbiotic' algae called *Zooxanthellae*, which give the coral their colour and supply the coral with food. When the polyp dies, the hard skeleton remains, and sometimes washes ashore.



**SEA SPONGE**

Commonly mistaken for plants, sponges are in fact filter-feeding animals.



**TURBAN SNAIL**

Turban snails live in rock pools and on shallow reefs. They have a trap door (called an operculum) to protect the snail's body.



**MUSSEL**

Mussels are bivalve molluscs - meaning they have two shells (valves) joined by a hinge.

## BRINGING THE BEACH TO YOU - COCOS KEELING ISLANDS CONTINUED...



**CONE SHELL**

The cone shell can rapidly harpoon their prey using hollow, barbed tooth shafts loaded with venom. Once the prey is paralysed it is usually swallowed whole. **Warning - Venomous.**



**NAUTILUS**

Closely related to squid and octopus, the nautilus is the only cephalopod that has a shell fully covering its body for protection.



**GONG GONG (SPIDER CONCH)**

A gastropod mollusc found in the shallow waters of the southern atoll lagoon and is eaten as a delicacy by the Cocos Malay population. They are vulnerable to overfishing so need to be managed carefully.



**GIANT CLAM**

These very large molluscs can live for more than 100 years in the wild. The number of giant clams has drastically reduced due to overharvesting. Like corals, they get their magnificent colours from tiny 'symbiotic' algae called *Zooxanthellae*.



**COCONUT CRAB**

Cocount crabs have very strong pincers to crack open coconuts in order to eat the contents. Also known as a "robber crab" or "palm thief", they have been known to steal items such as pots and silverware.



**OLIVE GREEN STALK-EYED GHOST CRAB**

This species is only found on Cocos Keeling Islands and Christmas Island. It can rotate its eyestalks 360 degrees to look for predators and food.



**GIANT BURROWING CRAB**

The giant burrowing crab is West Island's largest common land species and its burrows can be found all over the island.



**HERMIT CRAB**

Hermit crabs are not connected to their shell, so as they grow they need to find larger shells to move into.



**TROPICAL ROCK LOBSTER**

Female lobsters carry their eggs under their tail. This is called berried.



**SEA URCHIN**

This hollow ball is called a test and is the internal skeleton of a sea urchin. The mouth may still be seen on the underside of the test.



**SEA CUCUMBER**

Sea cucumbers act like underwater vacuum cleaners, ingesting sand and filtering out tiny particles of algae, minute aquatic animals and waste materials.



**SEA STAR**

Also known as starfish, they have five or more arms and can regrow an arm if lost or damaged. The mouth and tube feet are underneath the body.



**BLUEBOTTLE**

Bluebottles are not actually a single animal but lots of animals (called a colony) that depend on each other for survival. **Warning – even when washed up on the beach they can still sting you!**



**CUTTLEBONE**

These are the internal shells of a cuttlefish. Look carefully for teeth marks to find out what may have eaten the cuttle!



**TURTLE NEST & TURTLE TRACKS**

Turtles nesting is a year-round activity on Cocos Keeling Islands. Be careful not to disturb these nests. Beaches covered with marine debris make it difficult for nesting females to reach suitable nesting sites.



**MARINE DEBRIS**

Marine debris is any man-made material that enters a waterway. It is potentially harmful to marine life through entanglement or ingestion. **Please dispose of your waste correctly.**