



Poster: Bringing the Beach to You - Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Region

Indian Ocean Territories

Summary

Explore the beach flotsam and jetsam of Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

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.

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