



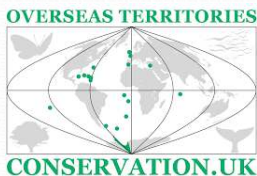
PLANTS & INSECT POLLINATORS

BIODIVERSITY & WELLBEING TOOLKIT INFORMATION SHEET

'Preserving the Past,
Protecting the Present
& Enriching the Future'



linktr.ee/montserratbiodiversitytoolkit



UK Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology



Montserrat's plants and pollinators

This information sheet gives an overview of some of the most attractive plants to pollinators on Montserrat, that you can include in your garden or area of development.

It was created as part of a wider project which aims to provide information on Montserrat's unique wildlife and how this connects to human health and well-being.

Information was gathered from members of the community as well as project partners working on Montserrat and internationally to create several management options. This supports *Option 4: Caring for wildlife: Supporting native plants, pollinators and other animals on Montserrat.*

It supports the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 as outlined below.



Encouraging plants that support pollinators

Plants that are native to Montserrat are perfectly adapted to current conditions, as a result native plants often require little maintenance or watering. Plants provide humans with many services (called ecosystem services) including slowing water to reduce erosion, shade, shelter, medicines etc. However, plants also have some basic needs and some plants need to be pollinated to reproduce. This can be done by a variety of animals including insects (bees, butterflies, moths etc), some pollinators are very specialised and have a unique relationship with the plant they pollinate, allowing only that specific animal to collect its pollen and nectar. Montserrat is home to both plants and pollinators that are only found on Montserrat and a few other nearby islands and nowhere else on earth (known as 'endemics'), for example the amazing Bottle Bee *Melipona variegatipes*.

Montserrat's plants and pollinators

Lantana *Lantana camara*



Lantana camara (left, cc candiru) with its pink and yellow mini-flowers is an attractive plant native to Montserrat, providing a food source to many butterfly species on Montserrat, such as the Yellow-tipped flasher *Astrartes anaphus* (below, cc Don Henise CC BY 2.0).



Montserrat's plants and pollinators

Sage *Croton flavens*



Sage *Croton flavens* (left, cc Alan Weakley) provides pollen and nectar to bees as well as rare butterflies, such as the endemic Tropical Leafwing *Anaea troglodyta* ssp. *minor* (photo below, cc *Anaea troglodyta minor* Louis Imbeau CC BY 4.0).



Montserrat's plants and pollinators

Wild pea/butterfly pea *Centrosema virginianum*



Butterfly pea
Centrosema virginianum (left, cc Heather Mazzaccaro)
true to its name, its butterfly-shaped flowers provide a food source for butterflies, including endemic Rusty skipper *Epargyreus zestos* (photo below, cc Mark Yokoyama CC BY 2.0 crop).



Montserrat's plants and pollinators

Sleepy Head

Mimosa pudica var. *pudica*



Sleepy Head *Mimosa pudica* var. *pudica*, a native plant found on Montserrat (left, cc Hafiz Issadeen) these spiky pink flower heads provide sugary nectar to endemic Bottle bee *Melipona variegatipes* (photo below, cc Toni Jourdan).



Montserrat's plants and pollinators

Milkweed *Asclepias curassavica*



Milkweed *Asclepia curassavica* (left, cc candiru) is the main foodplant for the stunning Monarch *Danaus plexippus megalippe* (photo UKOTCF).



Montserrat's plants and pollinators

Spanish Needle *Bidens pilosa*



Spanish needle *Bidens pilosa* (above, cc Wiki Farazi) although a small plant its flowers are still a great food source for bees and hoverflies, including Honey bee *Apis mellifera* (right photo, cc Nicolas Venner).



Montserrat's plants and pollinators

West Indian milk berry *Chiococca alba*



West Indian milk berry *Chiococca alba* (left, cc Don Johnston) is not as obvious pollinator plant, but it is loved by caterpillars of large moth species, including West Indies endemic hawkmoth *Cautethia noctuiformis* caterpillars (photo below, Julien Touroult CC BY 4.0) as well as the Tersa Sphinx *Xylophanes tersa* caterpillars.



Montserrat's plants and pollinators

Liana

Cissus verticillata subsp. *verticillata*



Liana *Cissus verticillata* subsp. *verticillata* (left photo, cc Lila) is useful for a variety of insects including leaf-cutter bees such as *Megachile lanata* (below photo, cc Haneesh K.M.).



Montserrat's plants and pollinators

Silk cotton *Ceiba pentandra*



The iconic Silk cotton *Ceiba pentandra* (left photo, cc Geo Sebras) at Cujoehead is not only culturally important but it is a food plant for bees, butterflies and caterpillars of the Caribbean duskywing *Ephyriades arcas* (below photo, cc Louis Imbeau CC BY 4.0).



Montserrat's plants and pollinators

Shrimp plant *Ruellia blechum*



Ruellia blechum (left photo, cc. Irene Rosen) this beautiful blue flower provides the spotty endemic butterfly Antillean crescent *Antillea pelops* with food (below photo, cc Mike Raish CC BY 4.0).



Montserrat's plants and pollinators

Saltbush *Baccharis dioica*



The Saltbush *Baccharis dioica* (left photo, cc Valentina Leal Monroy CC BY NC) is a food source for several species of butterflies, such as endemic butterfly *Angerona* hairstreak *Thecla angerona* (below photo, cc David Clements).



Using iNaturalist to upload a species record

If you are interested to know more about these or if you would like to help record species you can visit this free online portal: www.inaturalist.org and go to the project "Biodiversity of Montserrat". Some photo guides have been made for certain species on iNaturalist e.g beetles, butterflies and spiders.



1. Register for an iNaturalist account at www.inaturalist.org (better to register first on a laptop/PC)
 2. Open the iNaturalist app on your smart phone
 3. Touch the camera icon.
 4. Take a photo (or select a photo from your photo library, or decide to just make a text observation).
 5. Fill in whatever details you want to add about where you observed the species, any additional notes; to be added to the project "Biodiversity of Montserrat" you must select the location as Montserrat. You can be as accurate with the location as you want to be by using the map function.
 6. Touch the Save button.
 7. Touch Upload.
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Acknowledgements

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Finally the authors acknowledge and thank all the contributors to the wider toolkit, we hope that this provides a useful resource to the people of Montserrat.

For more information see: linktr.ee/montserratbiodiversitytoolkit

Contact Information



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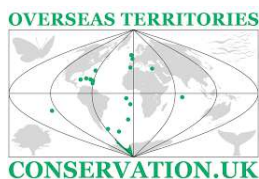


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