

Montserrat's vertebrate pollinators and seed dispersers

Recording observations. Records support research and conservation of Montserrat's wildlife. Everyone can get involved by being a citizen scientist. A tool widely used is iNaturalist. It helps record wildlife across Montserrat to study its biodiversity. Visit www.inaturalist.org and upload photos and notes of plants and animals you find. Follow the QR code to see the records from the "Biodiversity of Montserrat" pages.



Yellow-shouldered Bat
Sturnira lilium

Native. This is a small kind of fruit-eating bat. It also helps pollinate plants like peppers and nightshades. It roosts in sheltered spots like tree hollows, leafy branches, and beneath palm fronds.

Pearly-eyed thrasher
Margarops fuscatus

Regional Endemic. These thrushes can be seen around houses and gardens, and also in forests. They feed on a range of foods, including berries and fruit, so may help disperse the seeds of a range of plants.



Antillean Crested Hummingbird
Orthorhyncus cristatus

Regional Endemic. This bird is found across Montserrat's forests and gardens. Its specialised bill is very slender, so it can feed on nectar from a variety of plants. While feeding, it can also pollinate them.



Montserrat Oriole
Icterus oberi

Montserrat Endemic. Montserrat Orioles can only be found in the wild in Montserrat. They are forest birds, and mainly eat insects and fruit. These birds take advantage of the bracts of the Heliconia to extract insects and water and play a part in pollinating plants.



Bananaquit
Coereba flaveola

Native. These birds live in a range of habitats, including gardens. They feed on nectar, fruit and insects. They use their curved beaks to feed on nectar, and can help pollinate plants. They sometimes peck through the side of a flower to get to its nectar, which doesn't help it pollinate, so is called 'nectar robbing'.



Lesser Antillean Bullfinch
Loxigilla noctis

Regional Endemic. This forest finch can also be found living around houses and gardens. As well as insects, they feed on nectar, seeds, and fruit, so can help pollinate plants, and disperse their seeds.



Montserrat Ameiva (Ground Lizard)
Ameiva pluvianotata

Montserrat Endemic. These lizards have a varied diet, including fruit, so they may play a role as seed dispersers.



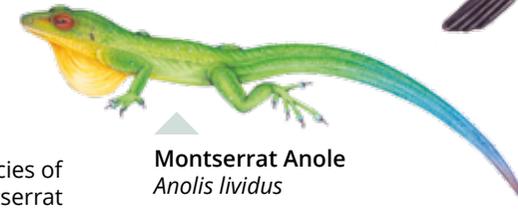
Red-rumped Agouti
Dasyprocta leporina nobelie

Regional Endemic. The subspecies of Red-rumped Agouti found in Montserrat can only be found here and in surrounding islands. They feed on fruit, seeds, roots and seeds. By carrying their food to sheltered spots to eat in safety, they can help disperse seeds.



Montserrat Anole
Anolis lividus

Montserrat Endemic. These lizards can often be seen in gardens and inside houses, but spend most of their time in trees. They feed on insects and other small invertebrates, but also eat fruit and nectar, so may play a role in pollinating and seed dispersal.



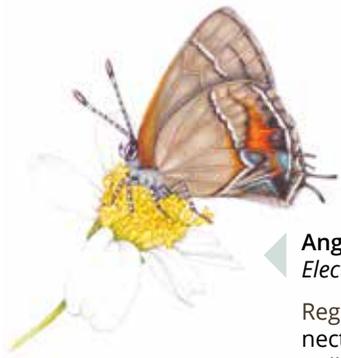
Montserrat's invertebrate pollinators

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Southern Red Rim
Biblis hyperia

Native. This butterfly lives in open damp forests. The caterpillars feed on Euphorbias, particularly *Tragia* sp. The adults help pollination when feeding on nectar.

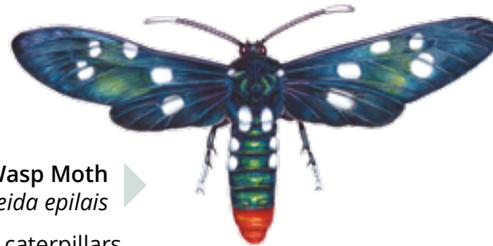


Angerona Hairstreak
Electrostrymon angerona

Regional Endemic. The adult butterflies feed on the nectar of small forest flowers, helping native plant pollination. It's an example of the importance of conserving regional endemics in Montserrat's habitats.

Hanno Blue
Hemiargus hanno

Native. This butterfly is found in open grassy areas, and forest edges. Like other butterflies, when the adults feed on flower nectar, they also help pollinate plants.



Polka-dot Wasp Moth
Syntomeida epilais

Native. This moth's caterpillars are considered a pest of non-native Oleander plants. Adults visit flowers for nectar, and help pollination across gardens and other habitats.



Bottle Bee
Melipona variegatipes

Regional Endemic. This tiny stingless bee is only found on Montserrat, Guadeloupe, and Dominica. It thrives in forest, preferring white or pale flowers, and produces honey with a distinctive flavour.

Caribbean Scoliid Wasp
Dielis dorsata

Native. This is a kind of solitary wasp. The young are a parasite of beetles. The adults visit flowers to feed on nectar, which helps pollinate native and naturalised plants, especially in dry scrub and open areas.



Jack Spaniard or Caribbean Paper Wasp
Polistes crinitus

Regional Endemic. This social wasp visits flowers, especially in forest margins and gardens. As it collects nectar, it pollinates both native and ornamental plants.



Spotless Lady Beetle
Cycloneda sanguinea

Native. This beetle mainly feeds on aphids, so is useful for gardeners who consider these a pest. The beetle also occasionally feeds on pollen and nectar, so helps with pollination too.

