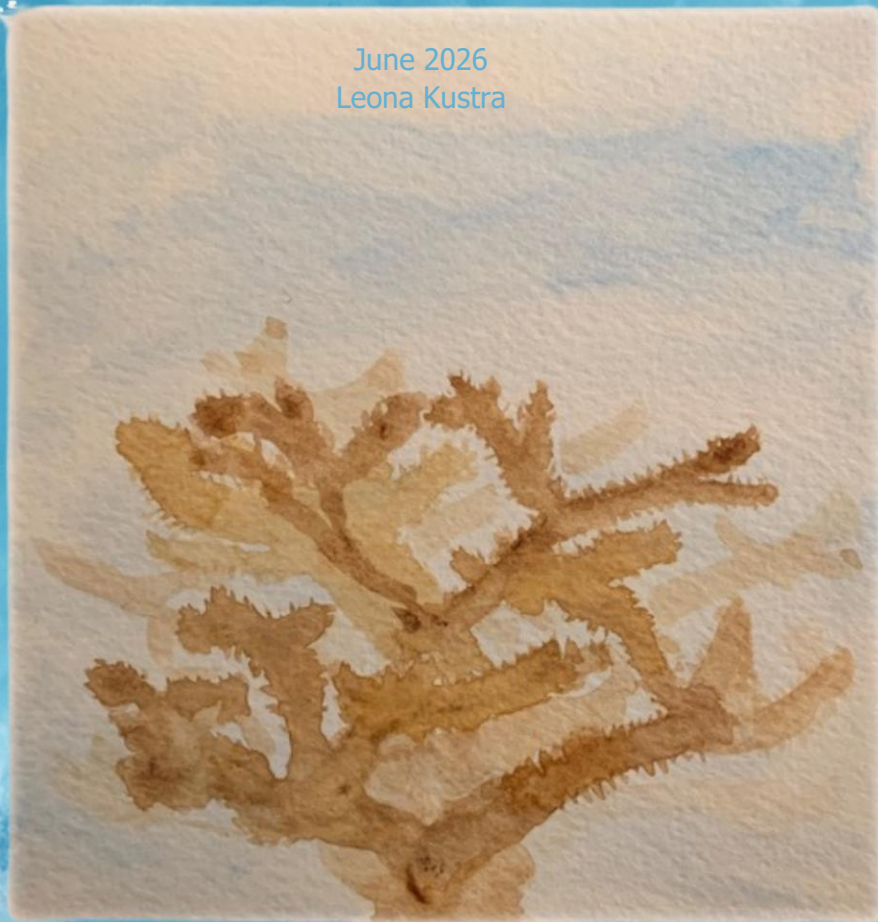


Guide to Commonly Seen Caribbean Shallow-water Stony Corals

Sorted by Scientific Name

June 2026
Leona Kustra



This guide was updated in June 2026 and was created for snorkelers, SCUBA divers and those in the tourism industry to help identify commonly seen stony corals of Caribbean shallow waters. This guide is for all who visit, work and play on reefs and wish to identify the remaining coral that provide ecosystem services for coastal residents and a beautiful underwater oasis for all. In the face of the multiple threats to the survival of tropical coral including the climate crisis and local threats like overfishing and poor water quality, observing coral in the Caribbean is a rare and precious experience.

“The teeming life of the beautiful and complex ecosystems that are coral reefs can be saved, given the will”, Charles Sheppard. This guide is dedicated to the memory of Professor Charles Sheppard who was a talented scientist and passionate advocate for the creation of the Chagos Archipelago MPA. His work advanced our understanding of how climate change affects coral reefs and continues to inspire others in conserving coral reefs.

If you plan to visit a reef or want to improve your snorkel skills, a short (free) [Reef-Safe Snorkeling Essentials course](#) is available for you. To share this snorkel course with reef managers, tourism operators, NGOs or anyone else, this QR code can be used.



The order of species in this guide is alphabetic based on scientific name. This guide was predominately built in iNaturalist using research grade observations. iNaturalist helps you identify plants and animals around you while generating data for science and conservation. If you would like to contribute your observations to iNaturalist, visit [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org).

The IUCN Red List status for Critically Endangered coral species were added manually to this .pdf guide. There are currently 20 critically endangered species of commonly seen stony corals in this guide. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025(2) status was updated as of May 2026. (Ref: IUCN <2025>. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. <2025-2>. <https://www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on <08Feb2026>.)

To view this guide in a different sort order (e.g. by scientific name or common name), to view macro photos of coral polyps, or to filter coral species by conservation status e.g., Critically Endangered, view the online [iNaturalist guide](#).

If you would like to collaborate on this guide or let us know of any errors or omissions, please contact @lkustra on iNaturalist or email us at coralconserve@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Leona Kustra
Coral Conservation Society

www.coralconserve.org



Caribbean Coral: Shallow-water Stony Corals Commonly Seen



Staghorn Coral

*Acropora cervicornis*¹
Critically Endangered



Elkhorn Coral

*Acropora palmata*²
Critically Endangered



Fused Staghorn Coral

*Acropora prolifera*³



Lettuce Coral

*Agaricia agaricites*⁴



Fragile Saucer Coral

*Agaricia fragilis*⁵



Agaricia grahamae

*Agaricia grahamae*⁶



Low Relief Lettuce Coral

*Agaricia humilis*⁷
Critically Endangered



Lamarck's Sheet Coral

*Agaricia lamarcki*⁷
Critically Endangered



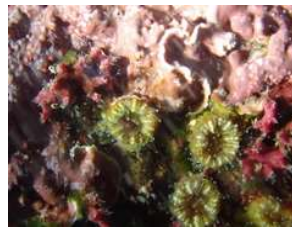
Thin Leaf Lettuce Coral

*Agaricia tenuifolia*⁸
Critically Endangered



Northern Star Coral

*Astrangia poculata*⁹



Dwarf Cup Coral

*Astrangia solitaria*¹⁰



Tube Coral

*Cladocora arbuscula*¹¹



Cladopsammia manuelensis

*Cladopsammia manuelensis*¹²



Boulder Brain Coral

*Colpophyllia natans*¹¹



Pillar Coral

*Dendrogyra cylindrus*¹³
Critically Endangered



Elliptical Star Coral

*Dichocoenia stokesii*¹¹



Grooved Brain Coral

*Diploria labyrinthiformis*²
Critically Endangered



Smooth Flower Coral

*Eusmilia fastigiata*¹¹
Critically Endangered



Golf Ball Coral

*Favia fragum*¹¹



Sunray Lettuce Coral

*Helioseris cucullata*¹⁴
Critically Endangered



Isophyllia rigida
Isophyllia rigida ⁸



Isophyllia sinuosa
Isophyllia sinuosa ⁵



Yellow Pencil Coral
Madracis auretenra ¹⁵



Madracis carmabi
Madracis carmabi ¹⁶



Ten-ray Star Coral
Madracis decactis ¹¹
Critically Endangered



Madracis formosa
Madracis formosa ¹⁷



Madracis pharensis
Madracis pharensis ¹⁸



Madracis senaria
Madracis senaria ⁷



Rose Coral
Manicina areolata ¹⁹



White Maze Coral
Meandrina jacksoni ²⁰
Critically Endangered



Maze Coral
Meandrina meandrites ²¹
Critically Endangered



Branching Fire Coral
Millepora alcicornis ¹¹



Blade Fire Coral
Millepora complanata ²
Critically Endangered



Box Fire Coral
Millepora squarrosa ²²
Critically Endangered



Ridged Fire Coral
Millepora striata ²³



Greater Star Coral
Montastraea cavernosa ²⁴



Large Flower Coral
Mussa angulosa ²⁵



Knobby Cactus Coral
Mycetophyllia aliciae ¹¹



Mycetophyllia danaana
Mycetophyllia danaana ²⁶
Critically Endangered



Mycetophyllia ferox
Mycetophyllia ferox ⁸
Critically Endangered



Ridged Cactus Coral
Mycetophyllia lamarckiana ¹¹



Oculina diffusa
Oculina diffusa ²⁷



Oculina robusta
Oculina robusta ¹¹



Ivory Tree Coral
Oculina varicosa ²⁸



Lobed Star Coral
Orbicella annularis ²⁹



Mountainous Star Coral
Orbicella faveolata ³⁰



Boulder Star Coral
Orbicella franksi ³¹



Phyllangia americana
Phyllangia americana ¹¹



Phyllangia pequegnatae
Phyllangia pequegnatae ³²



Mustard Hill Coral
Porites astreoides ³³



Porites branneri
Porites branneri ³⁴



Thin Finger Coral
Porites divaricata ³⁵



Branched Finger Coral
Porites furcata ³⁶



Finger Coral
Porites porites ²⁵



Knobby Brain Coral
Pseudodiploria clivosa ²



Symmetrical Brain Coral
Pseudodiploria strigosa ²
Critically Endangered



Artichoke Coral
Scolymia cubensis ³⁷
Critically Endangered



Fleshy Disc Coral
Scolymia lacera ³⁸
Critically Endangered



Lesser Starlet Coral
Siderastrea radians ¹¹



Massive Starlet Coral
Siderastrea siderea ¹¹
Critically Endangered



Solenastrea bournoni
Solenastrea bournoni ¹¹



Knobby Star Coral
Solenastrea hyades ³⁹



Blushing Star Coral
Stephanocoenia intersepta ¹¹



Rose Lace Coral
Stylaster roseus ¹⁶



Orange Cup Coral
Tubastraea coccinea ⁴⁰

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