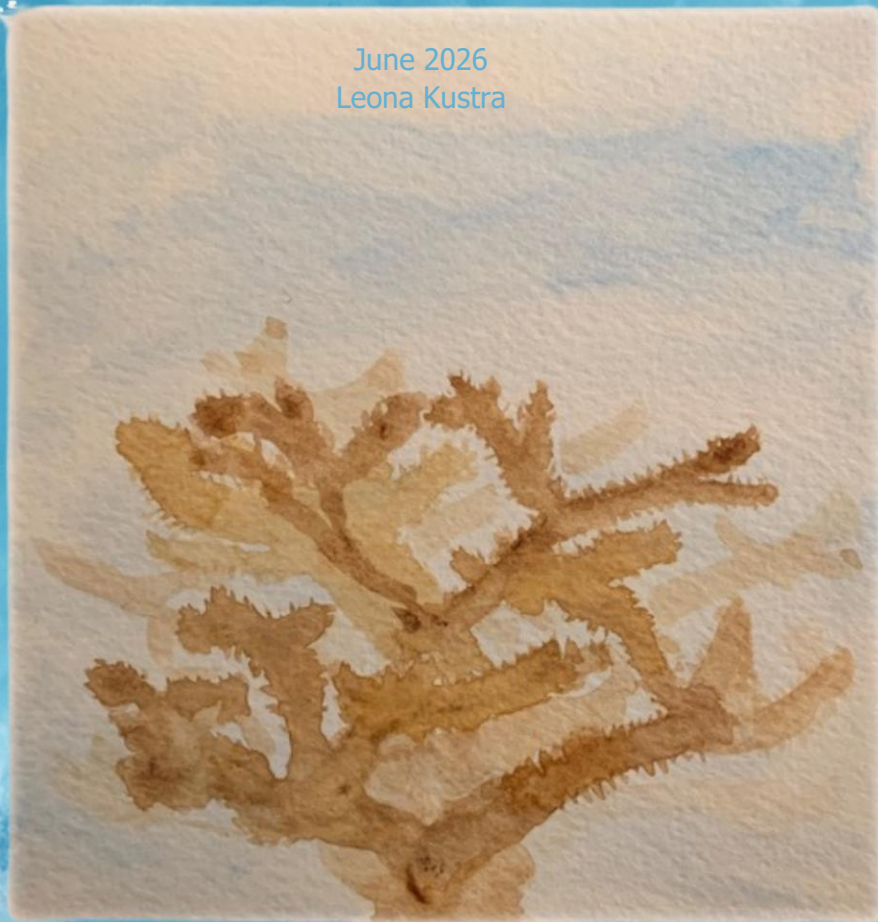


Guide to Commonly Seen Caribbean Shallow-water Stony Corals

Sorted by Common 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 the iNaturalist display name (common 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



Agaricia grahamae
*Agaricia grahamae*¹



Artichoke Coral
*Scolymia cubensis*²
Critically Endangered



Blade Fire Coral
*Millepora complanata*³
Critically Endangered



Blushing Star Coral
*Stephanocoenia intersepta*⁴



Boulder Brain Coral
*Colpophyllia natans*⁴



Boulder Star Coral
*Orbicella franksi*⁵



Box Fire Coral
*Millepora squarrosa*⁶
Critically Endangered



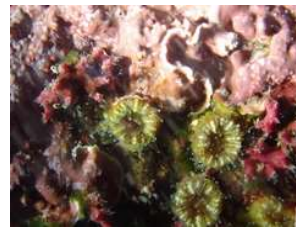
Branched Finger Coral
*Porites furcata*⁷



Branching Fire Coral
*Millepora alcicornis*⁴



Cladopsammia manuelensis
*Cladopsammia manuelensis*⁸



Dwarf Cup Coral
*Astrangia solitaria*⁹



Elkhorn Coral
*Acropora palmata*³
Critically Endangered



Elliptical Star Coral
*Dichocoenia stokesii*⁴



Finger Coral
*Porites porites*¹⁰



Fleshy Disc Coral
*Scolymia lacera*¹¹
Critically Endangered



Fragile Saucer Coral
*Agaricia fragilis*¹²



Fused Staghorn Coral
*Acropora prolifera*¹³



Golf Ball Coral
*Favia fragum*⁴



Greater Star Coral
*Montastraea cavernosa*¹⁴



Grooved Brain Coral
*Diploria labyrinthiformis*³
Critically Endangered



Isophyllia rigida
Isophyllia rigida ¹⁵



Isophyllia sinuosa
Isophyllia sinuosa ¹²



Ivory Tree Coral
Oculina varicosa ¹⁶



Knobby Brain Coral
Pseudodiploria clivosa ³



Knobby Cactus Coral
Mycetophyllia aliciae ⁴



Knobby Star Coral
Solenastrea hyades ¹⁷



Lamarck's Sheet Coral
Agaricia lamarcki ¹⁸
Critically Endangered



Large Flower Coral
Mussa angulosa ¹⁰



Lesser Starlet Coral
Siderastrea radians ⁴



Lettuce Coral
Agaricia agaricites ¹⁹



Lobed Star Coral
Orbicella annularis ²⁰



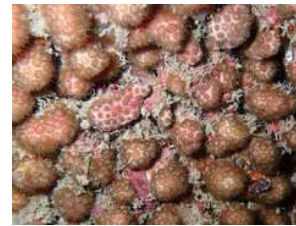
Low Relief Lettuce Coral
Agaricia humilis ¹⁸
Critically Endangered



Madracis carmabi
Madracis carmabi ²¹



Madracis formosa
Madracis formosa ²²



Madracis pharensis
Madracis pharensis ²³



Madracis senaria
Madracis senaria ¹⁸



Massive Starlet Coral
Siderastrea siderea ⁴
Critically Endangered



Maze Coral
Meandrina meandrites ²⁴
Critically Endangered



Mountainous Star Coral
Orbicella faveolata ²⁵



Mustard Hill Coral
Porites astreoides ²⁶



Mycetophyllia danaana
Mycetophyllia danaana ²⁷
Critically Endangered



Mycetophyllia ferox
Mycetophyllia ferox ¹⁵
Critically Endangered



Northern Star Coral
Astrangia poculata ²⁸



Oculina diffusa
Oculina diffusa ²⁹



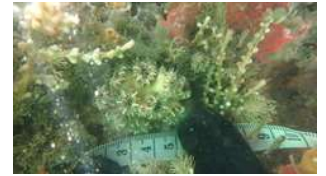
Oculina robusta
*Oculina robusta*⁴



Orange Cup Coral
*Tubastraea coccinea*³⁰



Phyllangia americana
*Phyllangia americana*⁴



Phyllangia pequegnatae
*Phyllangia pequegnatae*³¹



Pillar Coral
*Dendrogyra cylindrus*³²
Critically Endangered



Porites branneri
*Porites branneri*³³



Ridged Cactus Coral
*Mycetophyllia lamarckiana*⁴



Ridged Fire Coral
*Millepora striata*³⁴



Rose Coral
*Manicina areolata*³⁵



Rose Lace Coral
*Stylaster roseus*²¹



Smooth Flower Coral
*Eusmilia fastigiata*⁴
Critically Endangered



Solenastrea bournoni
*Solenastrea bournoni*⁴



Staghorn Coral
*Acropora cervicornis*³⁶
Critically Endangered



Sunray Lettuce Coral
*Helioseris cucullata*³⁷
Critically Endangered



Symmetrical Brain Coral
*Pseudodiploria strigosa*³
Critically Endangered



Ten-ray Star Coral
*Madracis decactis*⁴
Critically Endangered



Thin Finger Coral
*Porites divaricata*³⁸



Thin Leaf Lettuce Coral
*Agaricia tenuifolia*¹⁵
Critically Endangered



Tube Coral
*Cladocora arbuscula*⁴



White Maze Coral
*Meandrina jacksoni*³⁹
Critically Endangered



Yellow Pencil Coral
*Madracis auretenra*⁴⁰

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