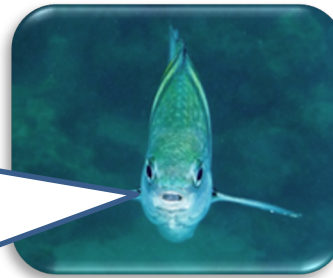


An Educational Poster of Marine Life prepared by **Dr. Nigel Thomas**, for the Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort.



Welcome to snorkelling in the sea off the Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort. I am going to take you on a tour of some of the many species you can find here, but first I want to tell you about my name.

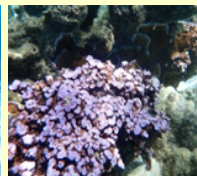


WHAT'S IN A NAME. My species has a "common name", which is **Scissortail Sergeant**, but because common names vary in different places and with different languages, I also have a "scientific name", which is *Abudefduf sexfasciatus* and this stays the same everywhere. The scientific name is normally in latin and in my case means, "The one with six-banded prominent sides!". The names given here are both **Common** and **Latin**.

CORALS. One of the most important groups of species at the resort, and in all tropical seas, are the corals. Some of these corals take hundreds or even thousands of years to develop into reefs, although individual species may grow quite quickly. They are particularly at risk from changes in water temperature, because they co-exist with microscopic algae (seaweeds), which live in their cells and which provide them with energy during the day. If the water gets too hot the algae can die and the coral dies as well. Climate change is a major cause of temperature change in the world's seas. The hard corals and other similar, soft corals, zoaniths and anemones are all based on the same building block, the polyp. Hard corals and soft corals may include many hundreds of polyps, while anemones are solitary polyps. The polyps all have a similar form, each having a ring of feeding tentacles around their mouth, which they extend to catch small animals that swim or float past them in the water. This is a very diverse group of animals in both form and colour.



Porites Coral. *Porites lutea*. The largest and most common coral in the area.



Another **Porites** species. *Porites rus*. Variable form often lilac and brown colour



Cauliflower Coral. *Pocillopora verrucosa* often a strong pink colour.



The fragile **Cactus Coral.** *Pavona cactus*.



One of the many, spiky, **Staghorn Corals.** *Acropora* species.



Slipper Coral. *Herpolitha limax*. Found on the surface of the sand between coral heads

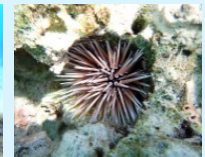
ECHINODERMS. Unlike the corals, which wait for the food to come to them, the Echinoderms generally move around to catch their food, although most of them do so very slowly. The Echinoderms include several strange looking groups of species, such as; Starfish, which you probably know about; Sea Urchins, with their prickly spines; and the rather unattractive Sea Cucumbers, which spend all of their time vacuuming up sediments to eat. Many of these species stay hidden during the day but emerge to feed during the night.



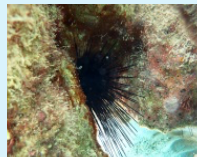
Brown coloured **Blue Sea Star.** *Linckia laevigata*.



Crown-of-thorns Sea Star. *Acanthaster planci*, attacking a coral.



Rock Boring Urchin. *Echinometra mathaei*. Found in dead coral.



Black Long-spined Urchin. *Diadema setosum*.



Cushion Star. *Culcita novaeguineae*



Leopard Sea Cucumber. *Bohadschia argus*

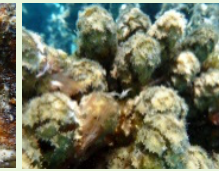
UNUSUAL LOOKING SPECIES. Some species of animal look like plants while some of the plants (algae) look like animals and others even look man made!



The flower-like feeding crown of the **Christmas Tree Worm.** *Spirobranchus* sp.



The almost metallic looking **Sailor's Eyeball.** *Valonia* sp. A seaweed!



The coral-like **Crowded Seabell** seaweed. *Turbinaria ornata*.

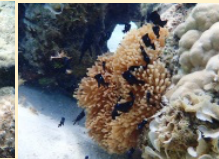
CLOWNFISH AND ANEMONES. Everybody loves a clownfish! The clownfish are a brightly coloured and very excitable group of species. They exhibit 'symbiotic mutualism', which means they live with another species to their joint benefit. In this area their partner is the Magnificent Sea Anemone. This sea anemone is also host to the juveniles of other fish species.



Orangefin Clownfish. *Amphiprion chrysopterus*.



Clownfish with its host the Magnificent Sea Anemone. *Heteractis magnifica*

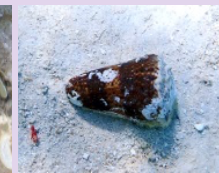


The Magnificent Sea Anemone is also host to the **Threespot Dascyllus.** *Dascyllus trimaculatus*

MOLLUSCS. All of the animal species on this poster, apart from the fish, are known as invertebrates, as they have no backbone. An important group around Moorea is the Molluscs. Many hardly move, for example the Giant Clam, a bivalve. Others crawl around very slowly such as the Conch shells. Mollusc shells are often beautifully decorated but avoid touching them because some are very poisonous.



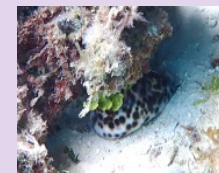
The often massive and colourful **Elongate Giant Clam.** *Tridacna maxima*.



A **Cone Shell.** *Conus* sp. **Avoid touching**, some species are very poisonous.



Chocolate Spotted Auger. *Terebra subulata*.



Tiger Cowrie. *Cypraea tigris*.



Giant Spider Conch. *Lambis truncata*.



Silver Conch. *Lentigo lentiginosus*