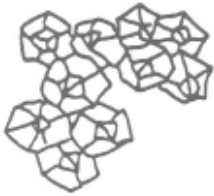




Mangrove Fauna

Information Sheet

Around the Mangrove Boardwalk



Barnacle

This crustacean attaches itself to trees or any other support. During high tide, its modified legs protrude to catch plankton. They retreat to the safety of their shells during low tide.

Cicada

A brown insect called cicada makes the shrill calls you heard in the mangroves. It calls by vibrating a membrane located on its abdomen.



Archer Fish

The archer fish is one with a very unique way of catching its prey. It feeds on insects that can be found on the water surface as well as those that are flying or perching close to the water surface. It can shoot a powerful jet of water at an insect, and knock it off its perch.



Crab

A fast runner with excellent vision, the crab is ecologically vital, as it is the key consumer of mangrove leaves, which do not decompose easily.

During low tide, look out for the well-camouflaged crabs on the mud surface. During high tide, they will be found on the mangrove roots, tree trunks and even the boardwalk!

Drill

The drill, *Chicoreus capucinus* is a common predator of the bivalves here in the reserve. It drills a hole in its victim using a boring organ under its foot and the organ produces carbonic acid. It is a tedious process taking several hours excavating a hole before it can consume its meal.



Mangrove Oyster

Has a chalky white shell, which may be encrusted with algae and barnacles. Look out for those caught between the roots of the mangrove trees.

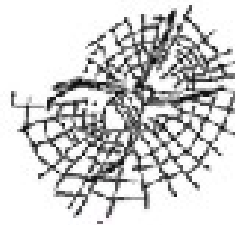


Creeper Shell

This mollusc prefers sheltered and shallow waters where there is no wave movement. Locally known as chut chut, it is edible and eaten fried with chilli by locals.

Nerita

This herbivorous mollusc can be seen on tree trunk and structures feeding on algae and lichen.



Spider

Many spiders weave their webs among the mangrove trees and some even using the wooden railings of the boardwalk as supports. Two impressive spiders to look for are the Golden Web Spider and the St Andrew's Cross Spider. The males are dwarfed by the females and hang about the perimeter of the web, waiting for a chance to mate with the female (without becoming a meal himself!).

Otter

Smooth otters *Lutra perspicillata* are often sighted in the reserve. Otters are mammals adapted to a life in water and on land. On land they are usually clumsy but in water they are skilful swimmers. A long heavy body, small head and a thick tapering tail give them a streamlined appearance. This enables them to manoeuvre through the water. Their favourite food includes fish, molluscs and crustaceans.



Horseshoe Crab

Not a true crab. It uses its long tail to right itself if it gets turned over. A purified extract of its blood can be used to detect bacterial toxins; hence their importance to medical science.



Mud Lobster and Mud Lobster Mound

The mud lobster is not easy to spot during the day. However, its home the volcano-like mounds which it builds, can be seen throughout the mangrove swamp.

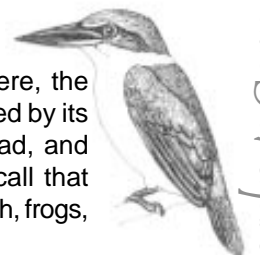


Mudskipper

It is actually a fish but is able to run across the mud and even climb trees. In water, the mudskipper breathes through its gills. However, on land, it carries around a mixture of air and water in its gill chambers. The blood vessels in the gills absorb the oxygen as the water passed through the gills. A fresh mouthful of water is gulped in when the oxygen is used up. There are at least 5 different species in the reserve.

Collared Kingfisher

The most easily seen kingfisher here, the Collared Kingfisher is easily identified by its turquoise blue upper-parts and head, and white collar. It has loud crackling call that advertises its presence. It feeds on fish, frogs, small snakes, insects and lizards.



Teacher's Copy



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