

# Field Guide to the Caribbean Flora Seen Throughout Study Abroad Dominica 2014

Brandi Trost

Texas A&M University

Dr. Jim Woolley

Dr. Thomas E. Lacher

Dominica Study Abroad 2014

## **Abstract**

The purpose of this study was to identify all flowers encountered during excursions throughout Study Abroad Dominica 2014. Around 50 flowers were obtained and identified, and a field guide was produced describing each flower and its location. The study was able to provide a better knowledge of Dominican flora and can be continued in the future.

## **Introduction**

The island of Dominica is home to countless species of flowers and plants. On a single trail, as many as fifteen flowers or more may be seen. These varieties of Dominican flora were the basis in deciding to produce a sort of guide to the flowers of the island. The intention of this project was to identify as many flowers as possible in the three week time span permitted in the areas travelled to. Overall, a large number of flowers were observed and identified, and hopefully this will be of great use to future researchers.

## **Materials and Methods**

At the beginning of the study abroad program, prior to choosing the distribution of flora as the definite project topic, around twenty flower pictures were obtained. Once it was decided that the project would focus on Dominican flowers, around thirty more were acquired. Using an iPhone 3GS camera/ 2 MP, 1600 x 1200 pixels, a picture of each flower was taken. Flowers were seen on the hikes to Mt. Joy, Middleham Falls, Cabrits National Park, the Kalinago Territory, Freshwater Lake, and Boeri Lake Trail, as well as around the Springfield Station gardens. Flower species were identified using the Dominica Illustrated Flora field guide (James et al., 1997). Further identification was established with the help of Dr. Thomas Lacher, Nancy Osler of Springfield, Top Tropicals online garden center, and the University of the West Indies, "Plants of the Eastern Caribbean" database. Once all specimens were identified, they were organized in a photographic gallery and then transferred to a Microsoft Word 2010 document, where each was given a brief description in addition to the provided picture.

## **Results**

Overall, there were fifty flowers photographed and identified. A couple of photographs were removed as the picture was unclear, and three of the fifty specimens were only identified to family as they are part of a large group. Most of the flowers found at Springfield Station were of ornamental use, as are most flowers found in Dominican gardens. All other flowers identified fall into other categories such as native descent, ornamental use, or introduced species.

## **Discussion**

The purpose of this field guide is to provide a photographic reference of each of the flowering plants encountered on Dominica. Though fifty floral photographs were acquired, there are still many other flowers on the island to be identified. The pictures taken came from some of the popular trails of Dominica and Springfield Station, and will ideally be useful in identifying flowers commonly seen in areas frequently visited by Study Abroad Dominica.

## **Acknowledgments**

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## Dominican Flora

### Family: Acanthaceae

*Thunbergia alata* (Common Name: Black-eyed Susan)

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden, Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Smaller vine. Orange/yellow flower with 5 petals. There are white varieties as well. Common food source of Antillean Crested Hummingbird.



*Thunbergia grandiflora*

Location: Mt. Joy trail, near the old station ruins

Description: Large vine. White or blue flowers with 5 petals. Triangular, lobed or toothed leaves. Yellow tube inside the flower.



**Family: Apocynaceae**

*Allamanda cathartica* (Common Name: Yellow Bells or Golden Trumpet)

Location: Kalinago Territory

Description: Mildly poisonous. Five large petals. A vine requiring some support, can be in the form of a shrub. May grow up to 20' tall.



*Nerium Oleander*

Location: Cabrits National Park

Description: Light pink flower with 5 petals. Long fibrous stamen. Thin, linear leaves.



***Plumeria rubra***

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: White flowers with 5 sleek petals and a yellow center. Very long, simple pinnate leaves. Milky sap secreted from the center of broken branches.



**Family: Asteraceae**

***Centratherum punctatum***

Location: Cabrits National Park

Description: Purple, thistle-like flower. Toothed, simple leaves. 1-2 feet tall.



*Coreopsis lanceolata*

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: 8 yellow petals with toothed tips. Thin stem with small leaves.

Center disk has prominent anther tubes.



*Emilia fosbergii*

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Red floret flowers. Simple leaves. Thin stems.



***Tithonia diversifolia***

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Long, slender, yellow petals. 10-12 petals total. Prominent anther tubes. Broad leaves.



**Family: Begoniaceae**

***Begonia grandis***

Location: Springfield Station Veranda

Description: Small white flower with 4 petals. Bright yellow center, and reddened stems. Large cordate leaves.



**Family: Bromeliaceae**

*Pitcairnia angustifolia*

Location: Cabrits National Park

Description: Bright, deep red, narrow flowers. Red, thin stems. Grows relatively tall.



**Family: Campanulaceae**

*Hippobroma longiflora*

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Small, white flower. 5 thin, pointed petals. Thistle-like leaves with toothed edges.



**Family: Commelinaceae**

*Commelina diffusa*

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Tiny blue flower. Two larger, circular upper petals. Two smaller lower petals. Longer, simple leaves.



**Family: Convolvulaceae**

*Ipomea tiliaceae*

Location: Mt. Joy Trail, Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Bell-shaped flower of purple color. Heart-shaped, broad leaves.



**Family: Euphorbiaceae**

***Euphorbia milii***

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Small bushel of pale yellow flowers. Darker center, with 2 petals. Long pinnate leaves. Small tree structure with thorns along trunk.



***Jatropha integerrima***

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Small, bright pink flowers with 5 petals. Yellow stamens in the center. Larger, lobed leaves with 3 points.

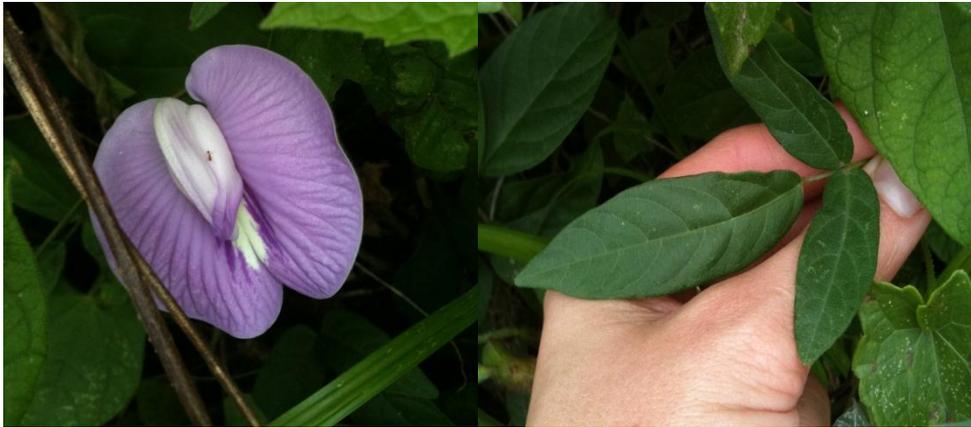


**Family: Fabaceae**

***Centrosema virginianum***

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Purple flower with two large petals. 3 alternating pinnate leaves.



***Chamaecrista glandulosa***

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Small yellow flowers. Short brown stamen in the center of the flower. Small, compound leaves.



*Delonix regia*

Location: Cabrits National Park

Description: Large sprawling tree. Large, double pinnate compound leaves.

Flowers of red/orange color, made up of four petals and a fifth upright petal in the center.



*Desmodium incanum*

Location: Middleham Falls Trail, Mt. Joy Trail, Cabrits National Park

Description: Tiny purple flower with one larger petal and a small lip.

Slender, simple leaves with a paler line down the middle.



*Mimosa pudica*

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Purple flower resembling a firework. Small, opposite compound leaves. Leaves fold in when touched.



**Family: Heliconiaceae**

*Heliconia bihai*

Location: Boeri Lake Trail

Description: Smaller, crab claw-like flower. Tall stem. Actual flower growing within the modified claw.



*Heliconia wagneriana*

Location: Springfield Station, Mt. Joy Trail, Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Large, modified crab-like leaves. Small flowers within the claw structure. Attempting to be removed; host to mosquito larvae due to collected water.



**Family: Iridaceae**

*Trimezia martinicensis*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Small yellow flowers. 3 petals and 3 sepals. Center is spotted.

Leaves resemble large blades of grass



**Family: Lamiaceae**

*Clerodendrum chinense*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Bushel of white, rose-like flowers resembling a bouquet.

Broad, slightly lobed, toothed leaves.



*Holmskioldia sanguinea*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Small orange flowers. Flattened petals with short stigma in the center. Small, simple pinnate leaves.



**Family: Lythraceae**

*Cuphea hyssopifolia*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Shrub with small purple flowers with 6 petals. Pale center.  
Simple, glossy leaves.



**Family: Malvaceae**

*Sida acuta*

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Small pale yellow flower with 5 bean-shaped petals. Bright yellow center. Small, lobed leaves.



*Hibiscus*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Large standard hibiscus. 5 very light pink petals. Dark magenta center. Long red stigma with yellow anthers.



*Double Hibiscus*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Very full flower. Peach colored, veined petals. Deep red stigma. Large simple pinnate, toothed leaves.



*Malvaviscus arboreus*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Bright red flower with thin veined petals. Long stigma protruding from the center. Broad simple leaves.



**Family: Melastomataceae**

*Charianthus alpinus*

Location: Freshwater Lake

Description: Pink/red flowers. Reddened stems. Large, simple leaves with the ladder pattern. Produces black fruit.



*Clidemia hirta*

Location: Mt. Joy Trail

Description: Small white flower with 5 petals and small white stamens in a circle pattern. Furry stems and leaves. Ladder pattern seen in leaf veins. Produces black berries.



*Dissotis rotundifolia*

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Bright purple flower with yellow stamens. Small ladder patterned leaves. Ground covering vine. Has become invasive.



*Nepsera aquatic*

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Small white flower with 4 sharply pointed petals. Purple stamens. Red, wood-like stems with simple, laddered leaves.



*Pterolepis glomerata*

Location: Freshwater Lake

Description: Small light pink or white flower with four petals. Thin stem with few small leaves.



*Tibouchina grandiflora*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Large, sprawling shrub. Rich purple flowers with pink centers.

Soft, fuzzy leaves with the ladder-like patten of melastomes.



*Tibouchina ornata*

Location: Freshwater Lake

Description: Deep purple flower with 5 pointed petals. Bright yellow stamens. Tiny pinnate leaves with the ladder-like veins of melastomes.



**Family: Nyctaginaceae**

*Bougainvillea spectabilis*

Location: Springfield Station Veranda

Description: Small white flowers. Protruding stamens surrounded by three thin petals. Smaller shrub with heart-shaped, pinnate leaves.



**Family: Orchidaceae**

(Common Name: Terrestrial Orchid)

*Spathoglottis plicata*

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Long, tall stem. Light purple flower with 2 petals, 3 sepals, and white lip protruding from the lower portion of the flower.



**Family: Plantaginaceae** (Common Name: Coral Firecracker)

*Russelia equisetiformis*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Thin, tube like flower. Long, thin stems. Leafless plant.



**Family: Rosaceae**

*Rubus rosifolius*

Location: Mt. Joy Trail

Description: White flowers with 5 petals. Several anthers around the stigma. Produces raspberries. Toothed, pinnate leaves. Introduced.



*Rose*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Very full, pink flower with sprawling petals. Simple pinnate leaves.



**Family: Rubiaceae**

*Gonzalagunia hirsute*

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Small white flowers with 4 petals. Long, glossy pinnate leaves. Smaller shrub.



*Mussaenda erythrophylla*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Broad pink flowers. Large pink sepals. Small yellow flower with 5 petals. Large simple, pinnate leaves



*Mussaenda luteola*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Small, yellow flower. 5 star-shaped petals. Large white sepal. Medium sized simple leaves.



*Psychotria urbaniana*

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Small light purple sepals, very rose-like. Produces tiny white flower with 5 petals. Linear, thin pinnate leaves.



**Family: Solanaceae**

*Solanum torvum*

Location: Mt. Joy Trail

Description: Small white flowers. Star-shaped with 5 petals and protruding yellow stigma. Larger lobed leaves.



**Family: Verbenaceae**

***Lantana camara***

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Tiny yellow and orange flowers. Produces small black berries.

Toothed leaves with prominent veins. Introduced.



***Stachytarpheta urticifolia***

Location: Middleham Falls Trail

Description: Small purple/blue flower with 5 petals. Long stem continuing past flowers. Toothed, pointy leaves.



**Family: Zingiberaceae**

*Alpinia purpurata*

Location: Springfield Station Butterfly Garden

Description: Decorative ginger plant. Flower resembling pinecone structure. Usually of pink or red hue. Long, broad pinnate leaves. Introduced.

