

6. LIST OF PLANTS COLLECTED ON COETIVY ISLAND, SEYCHELLES

by S. A. Robertson and F. R. Fosberg

Introduction

A visit was made by Robertson to Coetivy Island from 27 February to 3 March 1980. During that time as many parts of the island as possible were visited and a plant collection was made. 99 species were collected and another 22 noted, including crops but not obvious garden ornamentals. Two sets were made, one of which is incorporated in the Herbarium of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mahe, Seychelles, and the other lodged with the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England. The first author is indebted to the Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, and his staff, in particular Mr S. Renvoize, for verifying the identifications. Included in the list are those species noted as occurring on Coetivy by Renvoize (1975); these are indicated by the abbreviation R. Most of them derive from the collections made by Gwynne and Wood (1969). Fosberg has been responsible for checking the nomenclature used, which conforms to that in others of this series of papers. Where these names differ from those used by Robertson (in press), the latter are given as synonyms. Families in the list are arranged alphabetically.

Coetivy (Figure 7) is a large sand cay of about 900 ha, 9.8 km long and 1.6 km wide at its widest point, aligned approximately north-east/southwest. The fringing reef is narrow and the main pass and settlement are slightly south of the mid point of the west coast. Coetivy is about 250 km south-south-east of Mahe and was named after the Chevalier de Coetivy, who sighted it on 3 July 1771. It is run as a coconut plantation.

The island is hedged with the usual beach-crest thicket of *Scaevola sericea*. This varies in width around the island and is greatest on the eastern coast. The northern and eastern parts of the island have the best soils and are covered with tall dense old coconut palms with a lush undergrowth of *Nephrolepis biserrata*, *Pipturus argenteus* and germinating

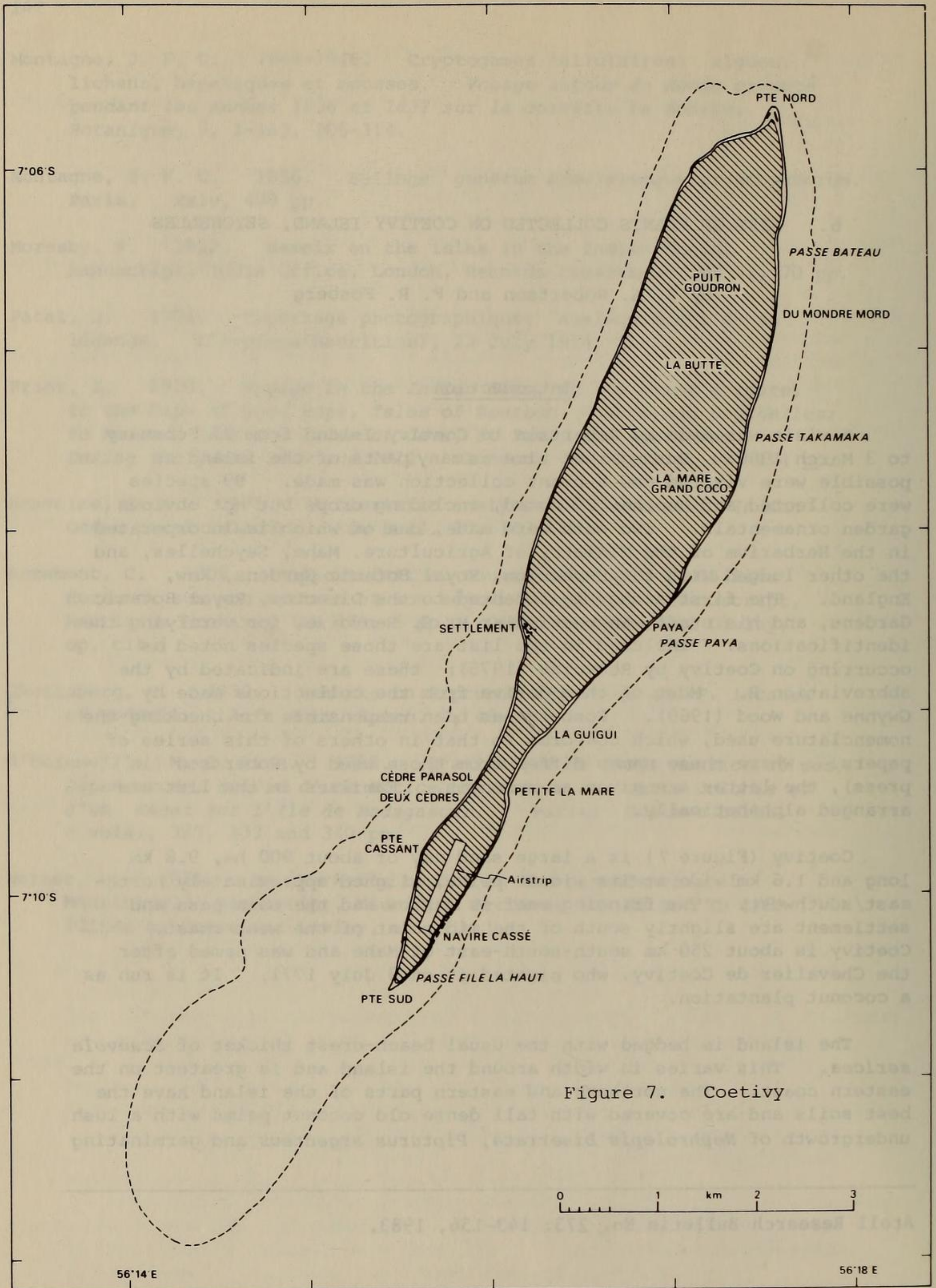


Figure 7. Coetivy

coconuts. The southern and western areas have very poor soil, almost pure sand, with stunted coconuts intermixed with *Scaevola sericea* and the ground sparsely covered with *Fimbristylis cymosa* and *Eragrostis subaequiglumis* tussocks. There were no planted coconuts south of the airstrip, and this area is thickly covered with *Scaevola sericea* and *Cordia subcordata* matted with *Cassytha filiformis* and *Canavalia cathartica*. There are several large dunes, up to 10 metres high, scattered over the island, and some fresh-water marshes, the largest being behind the settlement and reputed in island lore to be bottomless.

Plantations of exotic tree species such as *Tabebuia heterophylla*, *Neisosperma oppositifolia* and *Adenantha pavonia* have been established in various parts of the island and have self-seeded successfully. *Casuarina equisetifolia* is, however, the most common tree after *Cocos nucifera*.

Of interest were the small herd of feral donkeys which graze the open areas, the frigate bird roosting colony in tall old coconut palms just south of La Butte (the large central dune), and the relative scarcity of land birds. Only Barred Ground Doves, partridges, egrets and migrant European Rollers were seen. There were no skinks but an abundance of grasshoppers, butterflies and day-flying moths.

The first author would like to thank the Government of Seychelles for permission to visit and collect on the island, and the island staff for their hospitality.

List of plants

ACANTHACEAE

Asystasia genetica (L.) T. Anders. ?

Robertson 3155, on imported pile of red soil at settlement

AGAVACEAE

Agave sisalana Perrine

Robertson, sight

Furcraea foetida (L.) Haw.

Robertson, sight

AMARANTHACEAE

Alternanthera sessilis R. Br.

Robertson 3095, marsh behind settlement; R

Amaranthus dubius Mart. ex Thell.

Robertson 3096, settlement

Achyranthes aspera L.

R; not seen by Robertson

ANNONACEAE

Annona squamosa L.

Robertson, sight

APOCYNACEAE

Catharanthus roseus (L.) G. Don

Robertson 3091, settlement

Neisosperma oppositifolia (Lam.) Fosb. & Sacht

Ochrosia oppositifolia (Lam.) K. Schum.

Robertson 3136, La Mare Gran Coco

ARACEAE

Alocasia macrorrhiza (L.) G. Don

Robertson, sight

Colocasia esculenta (L.) Schott

Robertson, sight

ARECACEAE (PALMAE)

Cocos nucifera L.

Robertson, sight; over whole island

ASTERACEAE (COMPOSITAE)

Tridax procumbens L.

Robertson 3074, south of airstrip; R

Vernonia cinerea Less.

Robertson 3092, settlement; R

BIGNONIACEAE

Tabebuia heterophylla Britt.

Tabebuia pallida (Lindl.) Miers

Robertson 3153, central area, Chemin Barwills

BORAGINACEAE

Cordia subcordata Lam.

Robertson 3059, south of airstrip

Tournefortia argentea L.f.

Robertson 3182, eastern part on dune; R

CAMPANULACEAE

Hippobroma longiflora (L.) G. Don

Isotoma longiflora Presl

Robertson 3088, settlement; R

CAPPARIDACEAE

Cleome viscosa L.

Robertson, sight, settlement; R

CARICACEAE

Carica papaya L.

Robertson, sight

CASUARINACEAE

Casuarina equisetifolia L.

Robertson 3080, south of airstrip; R

CLUSIACEAE (GUTTIFERAE)

Calophyllum inophyllum L.

Robertson 3119, plantation in northern part of island; R

COMBRETACEAE

Terminalia catappa L.

Robertson 3138, Chemin Le Parc; R

COMMELINACEAE

Commelina benghalensis L.

Robertson 3141, settlement

CONVOLVULACEAE

- Ipomoea macrantha* Roem. & Schultes
Robertson 3070, edge of airstrip; R

CRASSULACEAE

- Kalanchoe pinnata* (Lam.) Pers.
Bryophyllum pinnatum (Lam.) Oken
Robertson 3082, between airstrip and settlement; R

CUCURBITACEAE

- Momordica charantia* L.
 Robertson, sight
- Trichosanthes cucumerina* L.
 Robertson, sight

CYPERACEAE

- Cyperus aromaticus* (Ridl.) Mattf. & Kük.
Kyllinga polyphylla Willd. ex Kunth
Robertson 3100, behind settlement
- Cyperus brevifolius* (Rottb.) Hassk.
Kyllinga colorata (L.) Druce
Robertson 3106, marsh behind settlement
- Cyperus cartilagineus* (K. Schum.) Mattf. & Kük.
Kyllinga cartilaginea K. Schum.
 R
- Cyperus cristatus* (Kunth.) Mattf. & Kük.
Kyllinga alba Nees
Robertson 3099, behind settlement
- Cyperus dubius* Rottb.
Mariscus dubius (Rottb.) Fisch.
Robertson 3079, north end of airstrip
- Cyperus erectus* (Schumacher) Mattf. & Kük.
Kyllinga erecta Schumacher
 R
- Cyperus kyllingia* Endl.
Kyllinga nemoralis (Forst.) Dandy ex Hutch.
Robertson 3107, garden in settlement
- Cyperus ligularis* L.
Mariscus ligularis (L.) Urb.
Robertson 3055, south of airstrip
- Cyperus maculatus* Boeck.
Robertson 3086, behind settlement

Cyperus polystachyos Rottb.
Pycnus polystachyos (Rottb.) P. Beauv.
Robertson 3101, marsh behind settlement; R

Cyperus rotundus L.
Robertson 3104, settlement

Fimbristylis complanata (Retz.) Link
Robertson 3105, marsh behind settlement

Fimbristylis cymosa R. Br.
Robertson 3063, over whole island; R (as *F. dichotoma*)

DIOSCOREACEAE

Dioscorea alata L.
Robertson 3151, northern area

EUPHORBIACEAE

Acalypha indica L.
Robertson 3146, settlement

Euphorbia hirta L.
Robertson 3084, settlement

Euphorbia prostrata Ait. ?
Robertson 3147, settlement

Pedilanthus tithymaloides (L.) Poit.
Robertson 3118, settlement

Phyllanthus amarus Schum. & Thonn.
Robertson 3083, between airstrip and settlement

Phyllanthus maderaspatensis L.
Robertson 3087, settlement; R

FABACEAE (LEGUMINOSAE)

Abrus precatorius L.
Robertson 3157, in imported heap of red soil at settlement

Adenanthera pavonina L.
Robertson 3123, in old fruit garden in northern area

Caesalpinia bonduc (L.) Roxb.
Robertson 3133, near old house at Paya, east coast

Canavalia cathartica Thouars

Robertson 3060, south of airstrip

Cassia occidentalis L.

Robertson 3144, settlement

Delonix regia (Boj.) Raf.

Robertson 3126, in old fruit garden, northern part

Desmanthus virgatus (L.) Willd.

Robertson 3127, in old fruit garden, northern part

Desmodium triflorum DC.

Robertson 3156, on imported heap of red soil at settlement

Leucaena leucocephala (Lam.) de Wit

Robertson 3132, near old house at Paya, east coast

Mimosa pudica L.

Robertson 3158, on imported heap of red soil at settlement

Pithecellobium unguis-cati Benth.

Robertson 3143, settlement

Tamarindus indica L.

Robertson 3150, in old fruit garden, northern part

Vigna unguiculata (L) Walp.

Robertson, sight

GOODENIACEAE

Scaevola sericea Vahl

Robertson 3069, beach crest thicket; R (as *S. taccada*)

HERNANDIACEAE

Hernandia sonora L.

Hernandia nymphaeifolia (Presl) Kubitzki

Robertson 3057, south of airstrip; R (as *H. peltata*)

LAMIACEAE (LABIATAE)

Leonotis nepetaefolia (L.) R. Br.

Robertson 3130, settlement

Ocimum basilicum L.

Robertson, sight

LAURACEAE

- Cassytha filiformis* L.
Robertson 3064, south of airstrip; R

LECYTHIDACEAE

- Barringtonia asiatica* (L.) Kurz
Robertson 3103, settlement; R

LILIACEAE (sensu lato)

- Crinum macowanii* Baker
Robertson 3131, settlement

- Yucca* sp.
 Robertson, sight; ornamental

MALVACEAE

- Gossypium hirsutum* L.
Robertson 3117, settlement

- Malvastrum coromandelianum* (L.) Garcke
Robertson 3125, northern lush part near path

- Sida pusilla* Cav.
Robertson 3077, south of airstrip; R (as *S. parvifolia*)

- Sida stipulata* Cav.
Robertson 3159, settlement

MORACEAE

- Artocarpus altilis* (Park.) Fosb.
 Robertson, sight

- Ficus benghalensis* L.
Robertson 3120, northern part near old fruit garden

MORINGACEAE

- Moringa oleifera* Lam.
 Robertson, sight

MUSACEAE

Musa spp.
Robertson, sight

NYCTAGINACEAE

Boerhavia repens L.
Robertson 3061, south of airstrip

Mirabilis jalapa L.
Robertson 3129, settlement

ORCHIDACEAE

Vanilla mexicana Miller
Robertson, sight

OXALIDACEAE

Averrhoa bilimbi L.
Robertson, sight

PANDANACEAE

Pandanus utilis Bory
Robertson 3108, behind settlement

PAPAVERACEAE

Argemone mexicana L.
Robertson 3140, settlement

PASSIFLORACEAE

Passiflora suberosa L.
Robertson 3090, behind settlement; R

POACEAE - (GRAMINEAE)

Cenchrus echinatus L.
Robertson, 3128, settlement

Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.
Robertson 3089, settlement

Dactyloctenium ctenoides (Steud.) Bosser
Dactyloctenium pilosum Stapf.
Robertson 3058, 3065, 3139, southern part on paths; very variable;

Digitaria didactylia Willd.
Robertson 3097, settlement

Digitaria setigera Roth
Robertson 3066, south of airstrip

Eleusine indica (L.) Gaertn.
Robertson 3122, northern lush part on path

Eragrostis ciliaris (L.) R. Br.
Robertson 3071, south of airstrip

Eragrostis subaequiglumis Renv.
Robertson 3072, 3073, common all over the island on poor soil

Eragrostis tenella (L.) P. Beauv.
Robertson 3078, 3112, northern end of airstrip and in north of island; R

Lepturus repens (G. Forst.) R. Br.
Robertson 3054, sand spit at south end of island; R

Panicum maximum Jacq.
 Robertson, sight, settlement garden

Panicum subquadriparum Trin.
Brachiaria subquadripara (Trin.) Hitchc.
Robertson 3154, La Mare Gran Coco

Stenotaphrum dimidiatum (L.) Brongn.
Robertson 3085, behind settlement; R

Stenotaphrum micranthum (Desf.) Hubb.
Robertson 3134, La Mare Gran Coco

POLYPODIACEAE (sensu lato)

Acrostichum aureum L.
Robertson 3110, marsh behind settlement; R

Asplenium nidus L.
Robertson 3115, northern area; R

Nephrolepis biserrata (Swartz) Schott
Robertson 3109, behind settlement; R

Polypodium scolopendria Burm.f.
Robertson 3102, behind settlement; R

Pteris tripartita Sw.
Robertson 3135, La Mare Gran Coco; R

PORTULACACEAE

Portulaca oleracea L.
Robertson 3137, east coast north of Paya; R

POTAMOGETONACEAE

Halodule uninervis (Forssk.) Aschers.
 R; not seen by Robertson

PSILOTACEAE

Psilotum nudum (L.) Beauv.
Robertson 3094, behind settlement; R

RUBIACEAE

Guettarda speciosa L.
Robertson 3113, north part of island

Morinda citrifolia L.
Robertson 3098, between airstrip and settlement; R

RUTACEAE

Citrus aurantiifolia (Christm.) Swingle
 Robertson, sight

SAPINDACEAE

Dodonaea viscosa Jacq.
Robertson 3116, west side of island north of settlement, near old
 house

SCROPHULARIACEAE

- Striga asiatica* (L.) Kuntze
Robertson 3062, south of airstrip; R

SOLANACEAE

- Datura metel* L.
Robertson 3142, settlement

- Physalis micrantha* Link
Robertson 3145, settlement

- Solanum melongena* L.
 Robertson, sight

- Solanum nigrum* L.
Robertson 3093, settlement

STERCULIACEAE

- Heritiera littoralis* Dryand.
Robertson 3149, marsh behind settlement

SURIANACEAE

- Suriana maritima* L.
Robertson 3067, south of airstrip; R

TILIACEAE

- Triumfetta procumbens* Forssk.
Robertson 3056, beach crest at south end of island; R

TURNERACEAE

- Turnera ulmifolia* L.
Robertson 3068, south of airstrip; R

URTICACEAE

Pilea microphylla (L.) Liebm.

Robertson 3121, north part near old fruit garden

Pipturus argenteus (Forssk.) Wedd.

Robertson 3114, north part of island; R

VERBENACEAE

Lantana camara L.

Robertson 3124, north part near old fruit garden

Lippia nodiflora (L.) Rich.

Robertson 3075, south of airstrip; R

Stachytarpheta jamaicensis (L.) Vahl

Robertson 3081, between airstrip and settlement; R

Stachytarpheta urticaefolia Sims

Robertson 3111, settlement

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