

Dominica - Coral Gardens

Soufriere, Dominica · surveyed 2022-06-22



Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. No diver transect was run at this site. The figure is a blind Claude computer-vision point classification of 145 photographs by the author, read without sight of any other method's result; other computer-vision methods are compared on the site page.

HARD CORAL COVER

11%

Claude computer vision (145 edited photos) · median 6.2%

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

29.7°C

8.1°C-weeks

3 Oct 2026 · +1.5°C vs the annual mean (28.2 °C) · NOAA Alert Level 2

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)

13.9°C-weeks 🔥

NOAA annual peaks averaging 12–16 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

15.2 m

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

27.8°C

+0.1°C vs the 2022 mean sea temperature (27.7°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

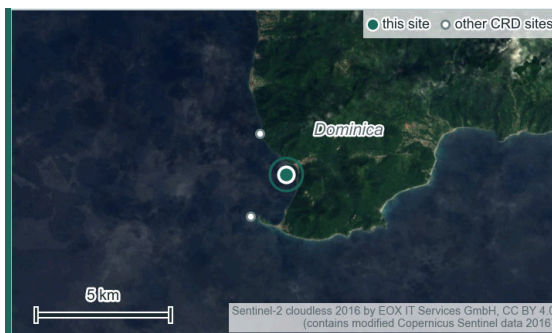
145

15 on the site page

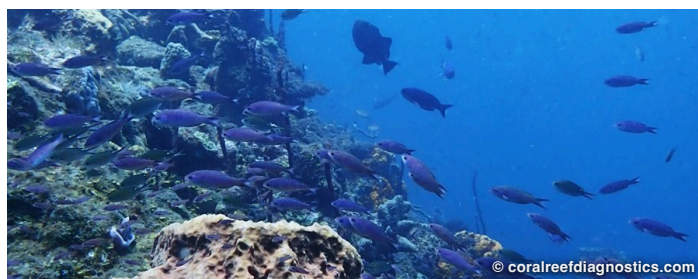
POSITION

15.2296, -61.3648

Approximate position: no GPS fix was logged for this dive.



Low rocky knolls in Dominica's Soufriere-Scotts Head Marine Reserve where sponges, not corals, provide the structure: meter-tall barrel sponges, thickets of red rope sponge, and yellow tube sponges over rubble and sand. Hard coral is limited to small scattered brain and plating colonies, much of the rock is turf-covered pavement, and dense clouds of chromis and creole wrasse stream over the mounds.



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): CoralSCOP edited 26.9 · Claude (edited photos) 11.3

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 145 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/dominica-coral-gardens.html> · Heat stress is the mean of the latest five annual maxima of NOAA Coral Reef Watch degree-heating weeks for this reef's NOAA CRW virtual station (Leeward Caribbean Islands) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.