

# BIRDS

Like bats, birds also aid in plant reproduction, both through seed dispersal and through pollination. The latter is attributed mainly to frugivorous (fruit eating) and nectivorous (nectar-feeding) birds, the more well-known of which are hummingbirds.

Brightly coloured flowers in red, pink and fuchsia attract hummingbirds to nectar stores found deep within the corolla, particularly in tubular shaped flowers. The long bill of the hummingbird as well as its long tongue access the nectar, and pollen is deposited on the crown of the head while the bird is feeding.

Some plants to which hummingbirds are attracted are *Russelia* sp (“firecracker” plant), *Lantana camara* and *Hibiscus* sp.



# SEAGRASS POLLINATORS

Among the underwater meadows of seagrasses is a community of pollinators belonging to a range of groups such as molluscs and crustaceans. These were investigated under the BES-Net TT project, and more information is available on the project webpage.

For more information,  
visit our webpage and social media platforms:  
<https://www.biodiversity.gov.tt/index.php/bes-net>  
<https://www.facebook.com/besnet.tt>  
[https://www.youtube.com/@bes-net\\_tt/videos](https://www.youtube.com/@bes-net_tt/videos)

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# POLLINATORS OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



Pollinator species are those animals which assist in transfer of pollen grains from one flower to another of the same species. Insects are perhaps the most well-known of pollinators, however, there are many other animals that contribute to this important process.

This brochure provides information on some major groups of pollinating species found locally and builds knowledge to lead to their valuing and conservation.

# BEES

Bees are perhaps one of the most well-known pollinators, visiting the flowers of several species of plants. Apart from obtaining nectar to fuel their activity, some bees also collect pollen which is processed back at the hive to feed their brood, while others collect resins used in hive construction.

Apart from the popular but non-native honeybees (*Apis mellifera*), there are several native bees involved in plant pollination. Among these are stingless bees or Meliponini, carpenter bees (*Genus Xylocopa*), orchid bees (*Tribe Euglosinni*) and other solitary bees.

Bees occupy a variety of niches some live in large colonies, while others live in crevices, underground and in solitary states. Common flower attractants for bees are those white, yellow or blue in colour.



Photo credit: Celeste Chariandy



Photo credit:  
Darshan Narang

# BATS

These night-flying mammals include fruit, nectar and insect-eating representatives, which play a role in pollination through their visits to night-blooming flowers.

While bats may not be very popular among most persons, they contribute to the proliferation of many plants both through pollination and seed dispersal. Some of the plants believed to be pollinated specifically by bats include: guava, banana, plantain, agave and dragon fruit.

With limited vision, the flowers to which these bats are attracted tend to have musky scents and they are generally white, pale green or purple in colour.

# BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS



The bright colour of butterflies attracts attention, making them perhaps the most noticeable of daylight flower visitors. Moths, the nighttime relatives of butterflies also visit flowers that open at night, performing a pollinator function while feeding on nectar.

Both butterflies and moths tend to visit 'flat' flowers, which provide a landing pad. By standing among the filaments of flowers where pollen grains are located, butterflies and moths may pick up pollen on their feet. The pollen is transferred to the stigma of similar flowers as they move along seeking their nectar meals.



Butterflies are not as efficient pollinators as bees, however they are often found on railway daisies (*Bidens pilosa*, see photo above), zinnias, asters and dahlias, while moths are often found on gardenia.