

**CHECKLIST OF THE BIOTA ASSOCIATED WITH  
SOUTHERN GULF OF MEXICO CORAL REEFS  
AND CORAL REEF ISLANDS**

by

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as a supplement to the book

J. W. Tunnell, Jr., E. A. Chávez, and K. Wither. 2007. *Coral Reefs of the Southern Gulf of Mexico*. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas. 256 pp.

November 2007

Suggested Citation: Tunnell, J. W., Jr. et al. 2007. Checklist of the Biota Associated with Southern Gulf of Mexico Coral Reefs and Coral Reef Islands. GulfBase (online database at [www.gulfbase.org](http://www.gulfbase.org)). Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. Corpus Christi, Texas.

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OF MEXICO CORAL REEFS AND CORAL REEF ISLANDS**

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## INTRODUCTION

The following list is a supplement to the book *Coral Reefs of the Southern Gulf of Mexico* (Tunnell, Jr., J.W., E.A. Chavez, and K. Withers. 2007. Texas A&M University Press, College Station. 256 pp.). There are two lists, one for marine species (1983 species) and the other for terrestrial (295 species). These lists are a compilation of species found in published literature, technical reports, theses, and dissertations. Although names have been updated according to Felder and Camp (Felder, D.L. and D.A. Camp (eds). *in press. Gulf of Mexico-Origin, Waters, and Biota: Biodiversity*. Texas A&M University Press, College Station), species have not been verified. The purpose of the list is to provide easy and constant (24/7) access to the information and to encourage further research on the biodiversity of the Mexican Gulf of Mexico coral reefs.

Appendix 1 is the checklist of marine species from the southern Gulf of Mexico coral reefs, and Appendix 2 is the checklist of terrestrial species found on the associated coral reef islands. Table 6.1 (p. 69) is from Chapter 6-Reef Biodiversity in the book (Tunnell et al., 2007) and lists coral reef (marine) phyla/divisions and numbers of species within the checklist. The Table of Contents includes page numbers within the list for easy access or reference to a particular taxon. The coral reef list includes each species listed in phylogenetic order to the family level then alphabetically by species. Phylogenetic order and classification follow Felder and Camp (Felder and Camp *in press*). The list also includes references or citations for each species, reef or reef system where each species was found, and habitat, if known. An acronym list for reefs/reef systems and habitats is found below. The list of marine species from the coral reefs of the southern Gulf of Mexico is 135 pages long and lists 1983 species. (Note: this number has been adjusted to reflect more accurate species numbers since the book was submitted for publication in 2006.)

Table 6.2 is from Chapter 6 (p. 70)-Reef Biodiversity in the book, and it lists the higher taxa and number of species in the terrestrial checklist of species found on the coral reef islands. Island acronyms are listed below. The terrestrial checklist is 21 pages in length and lists 295 species.

[NOTE: These two tables have been slightly adjusted with refined numbers of species since the book was submitted in 2006 for publication.]

Table 6.1. Number of marine species found in each division (plants) or phylum (animals) on the coral reefs of the southern Gulf of Mexico. A full checklist of all species can be found at [www.gulfbase.org](http://www.gulfbase.org). (Parentheses include numbers of species in lower taxa that have been totaled for phyla.)

Taxon	Number of Species
Division Bacillariophyta (Diatoms)	48
Division Rhodophyta (Red algae)	156
Division Chlorophyta (Green algae)	102
Class Phaeophyceae (Brown algae)	47
Division Bryophyta (Vascular plants)	7
Phylum Verrucomicrobia (Blue green algae/cyanobacteria)	16
Phylum Ciliophora (Ciliated protists)	72
Phylum Granuloreticulosa (Foraminiferans)	129
Phylum Porifera (Sponges)	28
Phylum Cnidaria (Corals, anemones, jellies)	88
Phylum Sipunculida (Sipunculids)	1
Phylum Annelida (Segmented worms, polychaetes)	41
Phylum Arthropoda	238
Ostracods	(88)
Decapods: Shrimp	(58)
Lobsters	(4)
Crabs	(88)
Phylum Mollusca (Seashells)	555
Chitons	(8)
Bivalves (Clams, mussels, oysters)	(138)
Gastropods (Snails and conchs)	(405)
Scaphopoda (Tusk shells)	(1)
Cephalopods (Octopus, squid)	(3)
Phylum Echinodermata (Echinoderms)	49
Sea lilies	(1)
Starfish	(5)
Brittle stars	(17)
Sea urchins, etc.	(14)
Sea cucumbers	(12)
Phylum Chordata (Chordates)	406
Subphylum Urochordata (Tunicates)	(24)
Subphylum Vertebrata (Vertebrates)	(382)
Class Chondrichthyes (Sharks, rays)	(29)
Class Actinopterygii (Bony fish)	(340)
Class Reptilia (Sea turtles)	(4)
Class Mammalia (Marine mammals)	(9)
<b>Total Marine Species</b>	<b>1983</b>

Table 6.2. Number of terrestrial species found in each division (plants) or phylum (animals) found on coral reef islands of the southern Gulf of Mexico. (Parentheses include numbers of species in lower taxa that have been totaled for phyla.)

Taxon		Number of Species
Division Magnoliophyta		97
Phylum Arthropoda		64
	Crabs	(2)
	Insects	(58)
	Spiders	(4)
Phylum Chordata		134
	Reptiles (Lizards)	(2)
	Birds	(130)
	Mammals	(2)
Total Terrestrial Species		295

List of acronyms used in Appendix 1 (marine species) and Appendix 2 (terrestrial species).

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### Marine Checklist Acronyms

#### Reef and reef system acronyms:

AC	Arcas	SF	Sacrificios
AL	Alacran	SWG	Southwestern Gulf of Mexico
AR	Arenas	TO	Triangulo Oeste
CB	Campeche Bank	TR	Triangulo
E	Enmedio	TRS	Tuxpan Reef System
IV	Isla Verde	VA	Veracruz-Anton Lizardo Reefs
L	Lobos	VRS	Veracruz Reef System

#### Habitat acronyms:

A	<i>Acropora</i>	PR	Patch Reef
Ar	<i>Arenicola</i>	RC	Reef Cut
BD	Beach Drift	RCr	Reef Crest
BS	Beach Sample	RF	Reef Flat
BZ	<i>Batillaria</i> zone	RfS	Reef Slope
Cr	<i>Ceramium rubrum</i>	RI	Rocky Intertidal
CRb	Coral Rubble	Rp	<i>Rhipocephalus phoenix</i>
CS	Carbonate sand	RS	Rocky Shore
D	Desert (sandy, barren)	S	Sand Ribbon
Dc	<i>Diploria clivosa</i>	SB	Sandy Beach
DM	<i>Diploria/Montastrea</i>	sg	Seagrass
DP	<i>Dictyota-Lobophora</i>	ST	<i>Sargassum-Turbinaria</i>
DW	Deep water	T	Terrestrial
FR	Forereef	Tb	Turbera (H <sub>2</sub> S anoxic area)
GC	<i>Goniolithon/Contarina</i>	TC	<i>Thalassia</i> coral mix
L	<i>Laurencia</i>	THA	<i>Thalassia, Halimeda, Amphiora</i>
Lg	Lagoon	Tt	<i>Thalassia testudinum</i>
LW	Leeward	TtH	<i>Thalassia</i> and <i>Halimeda</i>
MT	Moat	WW	Windward
Oct	Octocoral		

### Terrestrial system acronyms

#### VERACRUZ

##### Northern:

B	La Blanquilla
L	Isla de Lobos
S	Isla de Sacrificios
V	Isla Verde

##### Southern:

E	Enmedio
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**ALACRAN**

AL Alacran  
C Isla Chica  
P Isla Perez  
D Isla Desertora (Muertos)  
Dd Isla Desterrada  
Pj Isla Pájaros (Larga)

**ARCAS**

AC Cayo Arcas  
CC Cayo del Centro  
CE Cayo del Este  
CO Cayo del Oeste

**ARENAS**

AR Arenas  
CAR Cayo Arenas  
TO Triangulos Oeste

**OTHERS**

AA Anegada de Adentro  
G Gallega  
GI Galleguilla  
H Hornos  
LdM Laguna de Mandinga