

Epiphytic Plants of Bacalar Chico National Park, Corozal District, BELIZE 1

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¹Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, ²Ian Anderson's Caves Branch Botanical Garden

© Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (bholst@selby.org), Ian Anderson's Caves Branch Botanical Garden (ellabaron2014@gmail.com). Photos by Ella Baron (EB), Bruce Holst (BH), Phil Nelson (PN), Marvin Paredes (MP). Support from Bacalar Chico National Park, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Ian Anderson's Caves Branch Jungle Lodge.

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Flower and seed-bearing Plants



Aechmea bracteata
(Bromeliaceae; BH)



Aechmea bracteata
(Bromeliaceae; EB)



Tillandsia balbisiana
(Bromeliaceae; EB)



Tillandsia balbisiana
(Bromeliaceae; EB)



Tillandsia bulbosa
(Bromeliaceae; BH)



Tillandsia bulbosa
(Bromeliaceae; EB)



Tillandsia dasyliriifolia
(Bromeliaceae; BH)



Tillandsia dasyliriifolia
(Bromeliaceae; BH)



Tillandsia dasyliriifolia
(Bromeliaceae; EB)



Tillandsia izabalensis
(Bromeliaceae; EB)



Tillandsia izabalensis
(Bromeliaceae; BH)



Tillandsia streptophylla
(Bromeliaceae; EB)



Tillandsia streptophylla
(Bromeliaceae; BH)



Selenicereus testudo
(Cactaceae; BH)



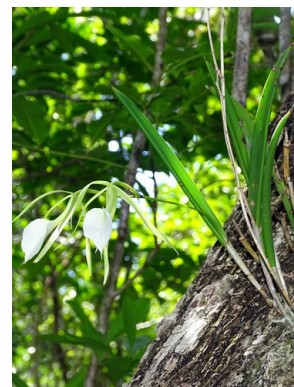
Selenicereus testudo
(Cactaceae; EB)



Ficus sp.
(Moraceae; BH)



Ficus sp.
(Moraceae; BH)



Brassavola grandiflora
(Orchidaceae; BH)

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Brassavola grandiflora
(Orchidaceae; EB)



Catasetum integerrimum, ♂ flowers
(Orchidaceae; EB)



Catasetum integerrimum, ♀ flowers
(Orchidaceae; MP)



Cohniella ascendens
(Orchidaceae; BH)



Cohniella ascendens
(Orchidaceae; DA)



Encyclia guatemalensis
(Orchidaceae; BH)



Encyclia guatemalensis
(Orchidaceae; PN)



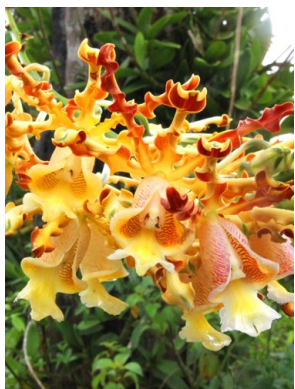
Epidendrum nocturnum
(Orchidaceae; BH)



Epidendrum nocturnum
(Orchidaceae; MP)



Myrmecophila christinae
(Orchidaceae; EB)



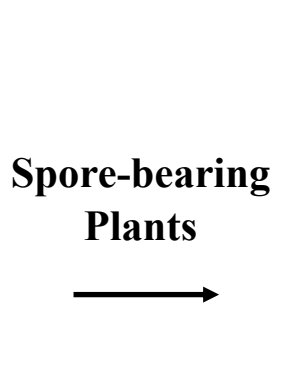
Myrmecophila christinae
(Orchidaceae; EB)



Rhyncholaelia digbyana
(Orchidaceae; BH)



Rhyncholaelia digbyana
(Orchidaceae; BH)



Spore-bearing
Plants



Nephrolepis biserrata
(Nephrolepidaceae; BH)



Nephrolepis biserrata
(Nephrolepidaceae; BH)



Microgramma nitida
(Polypodiaceae; BH)



Microgramma nitida
(Polypodiaceae; BH)



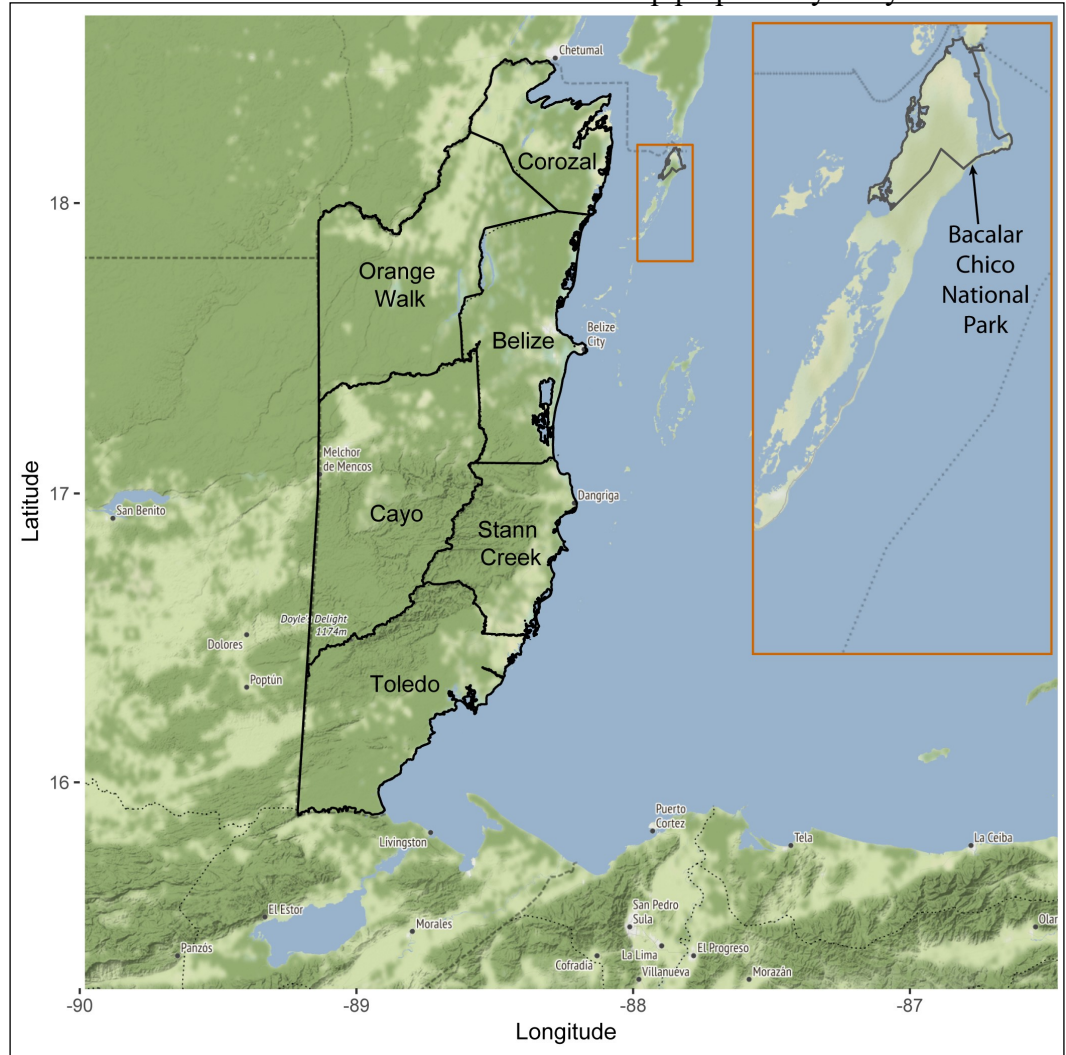
Pleopeltis polypodioides
(Polypodiaceae; BH)



Pleopeltis polypodioides
(Polypodiaceae; BH)

Bacalar Chico National Park encompasses an area of 11080 acres (4480 ha). It is surrounded by an even larger Marine Reserve that helps to protect a portion of Belize's renowned barrier reef. Accessible only by sea, the Park is located at the northern tip of Ambergris Caye overlooking the Bay of Chetumal and Mexico. Its ranger station is located at the ruins of Chac Balam, which was an important Maya trading center. Fifteen hundred years ago the Maya cut the narrow channel that now separates Ambergris Caye, Belize, from Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. The Park and Reserve were established in 1996 and are managed by the Fisheries and Forest Departments. They are key components of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, which was inscribed in 1996 as a World Heritage Site.

The authors of this guide appreciate the assistance of the staff of Bacalar Chico National Park and Roni Martinez while in the field.



Images. Below, left: View toward the northwest from the tower of the Bacalar Chico National Park Visitor Center (BH).
Below, right: Sayuri Tzul navigates through a mangrove forest, visible in the foreground are *Tillandsia streptophylla* and *Selenicereus testudo* (EB).



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Row 1. *Myrmecophila christinae* and *Pleopeltis polypodioides*; *Selenicereus testudo*; *Tillandsia dasyliriifolia*. **Row 2.** *Myrmecophila christinae*; *Tillandsia streptophylla* in upland forest. **Row 3.** Canal created by the Maya, now forming the border between Belize (right) and Mexico (left); *Avicennia germinans* swamp (all photos BH).