

Oyster Gardening on Bribe Island – Guide to Associates

Some of the shellfish and the various creatures associated with them in Pumicestone Passage:

HOSTS



Sydney Rock Oysters (juveniles)
(*Saccostrea glomerata*)



Leaf Oysters
(*Isognomon ehippium*)



Hairy Mussels
(*Trichomya hirsuta*)

ASSOCIATES

Green = Good,

Orange = Beware

Red = Warning

Name: Gastropod snails

Group: Molluscs

Role: **Grazers**

Gastropods are common in oyster gardens, where they graze harmlessly on algal films.



Name: Gobies

Group: Fishes

Role: **Residents**

Gobies quickly take up residence (in a leaf oyster in this case) and commonly lay their eggs inside dead oyster shells.



Name: Portunid crabs

Group: Crustaceans

Role: **Micro-predator**

Small swimming crabs like *Thalamita* and *Charybdis* use oyster shells as shelter as they scavenge their omnivorous diet



Name: Parrotfishes

Group: Fishes

Role: **Grazers**

If you are lucky you will see juvenile parrotfish swimming in and around your garden grazing on algae.



Name: Grapsid crabs

Group: Crustaceans

Role: **Micro-predator**

Grapsid crabs also live and hide around oyster shells set in shallower water.



Name: Ascidians

Group: Sea squirts

Role: **Smotherers**

Beware ! Colonial tunicates like *Botrylloides* are water filterers but can smother oysters if their growth gets too thick.



Name: Palaemonid shrimp

Group: Crustaceans

Role: **Grazers**

These cool shrimp (*Palaemon* sp.) are often found sheltering in-between oyster shells.



Name: Flatworm

Group: Flatworms

Role: **Oyster predator**

Warning! Flatworms can kill your oysters within weeks if you don't monitor them closely and dry them out regularly.



Name: Palaemonid shrimp

Group: Crustaceans

Role: **Grazers**

There are many different species of shrimp (Family Palaemonidae) that shelter and graze in-between oyster shells in Moreton Bay.



Name: Mud crab

Group: Crustaceans

Role: **Oyster predator**

Warning! Any mud crab larger than around 5 cm carapace width can crush and eat whole oysters. Remove them from your garden as soon as possible.

