

**What's up
with all these
butterflies?**





Here we are in beautiful Grand Case. In the Caribbean, it's always warm, so the main seasonal change is rainfall.



Normally spring is dry and rain increases during the summer and fall into the winter before drying again.



In 2014 we had a very dry summer so when we finally did get rain in October the vegetation went from dry to lush very quickly.



The availability of food allows the insect population to grow very quickly.



This in turn allows other animals, like lizards and birds to reproduce more as well.



The most common butterfly we see right now is the Great Southern White (*Ascia monuste*). This is a male, but the male and female are similar in appearance.



Similar, but female usually has dark spot on forewing. You can see it on the underside of this butterfly.



While many butterfly caterpillars will eat only a few plants, this butterfly's caterpillar will eat many things. Since it isn't picky the population can be very large.



Adults mate and then the female will find a host plant where she lay her eggs.



Eggs of this butterfly are yellow and oblong and laid in groups.



The caterpillars hatch from the eggs in about 5 days and grow for about 2 weeks.



They form a chrysalis and transform into a butterfly in about a week.



The adult butterflies feed on the nectar of a variety of flowers.



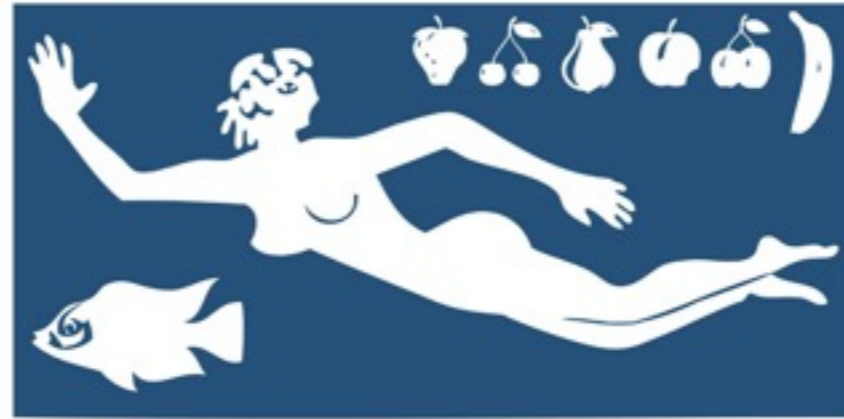
They can also get fluids and minerals from wet soil, a process known as mudpuddling.



They can live a week or two, but many get eaten by by birds, lizards, insects or spiders before that.



Now you know the story behind St. Martin snow!



**LES FRUITS
DE MER**