Appendix.—Octocoral Species Profiles

Taxonomy, geographic range, habitat distribution, life history characteristics, and other comments on wider Caribbean octocorals, particularly those occurring on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida, including taxa collected for the marine aquarium/marine curio trade. Common and scientific names are based upon Cairns et al. (2002); however, common names used by Florida octocoral collectors are also indicated, along with aggregate group names (i.e., other, red and purple, see Section I) used by collectors. An asterisk (*) by a species name indicates the most demanded taxa in the octocoral fishery (see Section I). Cairns et al. (2002) list 102 octocoral taxa for U.S. Atlantic waters, not including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Octocoral collectors in Florida target at least 23 species, not including species groups such as *Antillogorgia* spp., *Eunicea* spp., and *Muricea* spp. We acquired information and developed life history summaries for 51 octocoral species among 16 genera, including all of the targeted species in the octocoral fishery, as well as many sister taxa, especially where collectors noted genera, instead of species, that are collected.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Antillogorgia* (*Pseudopterogorgia*) *acerosa* (Pallas, 1766)***
Common name:	purple sea plume
Collector name:	golden plume or purple frilly or purple whip gorgonian
Collector group:	other and purple
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda, south and west Florida, Florida Keys, Bahamas, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Islands, Antilles. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Nelson et al. (1988): western Gulf of Mexico. Grimm and Hopkins (1977): Florida Middle Ground, eastern Gulf of Mexico. Voss and Voss (1955), Opresko (1973), Goldberg (1973a), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Davis (1982), Jaap (1984), Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Lewis and Von Wallis (1991), Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Gonzales-Brito (1970), Weinberg (1981), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Adams (1968): St. Vincent, Lesser Antilles. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico/ Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992), Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Kocurko (1987): Nicaragua. Gonzales-Brito (1972), Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Voss and Voss (1955), Voss et al. (1969), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard-bottom (1-2 m), patch reefs, and outer reefs. Adams (1968): fringing reefs. Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs (9 m) and outer reef platform (16-20 m). Kinzie (1973): 4-30 m depth, *Pseudopterogorgia* zone on fringing reefs. Opresko (1973): nearshore hard-bottom habitats and primarily an inshore species. Zischke (1973): nearshore hard-bottom. Muzik (1982): outer reef ridge and patch reefs. Jaap (1984): patch reefs and transitional reefs. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef and bank reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 6-19 m depth, fringing reefs. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs.
Growth:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): range in mean growth in colony height of 2.12-4.03 cm/yr.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): relatively high rates of colony annual survivorship (93.2-93.8%). Bayer (1961), Spotte and Bubucis (1996): often hosts caridean shrimps, basketstar *Astrophyton*, snails *Simnia* and *Cyphoma*, and commonly associated with other gorgonians such as *Antillogorgia americana, Pterogorgia anceps, Muricea atlantica* and *Plexaurella*

dichotoma. Goldberg (1973b): highly resistant to salinity and temperature fluctuations. Feingold (1988): black-band disease reported on colonies in the Florida Keys. Harvell and Fenical (1989): documented the presence of ichthyodeterrent terpenes in high concentrations in polyps relative to axial tissue, used for chemical defense. C.M. Wahle (pers. comm.): susceptible to storm damage. Voss et al. (1969): historically collected for the curio trade in south Florida.

The purple sea plume (*Antillogorgia acerosa*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: P. Espitia

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Antillogorgia* (*Pseudopterogorgia*) *americana* (Gmelin, 1791)**
Common name:	slimy sea plume
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda, Florida Keys, Bahamas, Antilles. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Voss and Voss (1955), Opresko (1973), Goldberg (1973a), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Marszalek (1981), Davis (1982), Jaap (1984), Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988), Glynn et al. (1989): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Gonzales-Brito (1970), Weinberg (1981), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico, Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992), Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Kocurko (1987): Nicaragua. Guzmán and Cortés (1985): Costa Rica. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Voss and Voss (1955), Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Zischke (1973), Jaap (1984), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard bottom (1-2 m) and lagoon patch reefs. Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs (9 m), outer reef platform (16-20 m). Kinzie (1973): 0-45 m depth. Preston and Preston (1975): patch reefs. Sterrer (1986): nearshore and outer reefs. Muzik (1982): outer reef ridge and reef slope. Sullivan and Chiappone (1992a): transitional reefs. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): fore reef and sand flats. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef, shallow spur and groove, and deeper fore-reef habitats. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): characterized as a low wave energy species in areas with high relief and low sediment transport. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 7-19 m depth, fringing reefs.
Growth:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): range in mean growth in colony height of 3.44-4.48 cm/yr.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): relatively high rates of colony annual survivorship (89.3-93.9%), with a tendency for growth rate to decrease with colony size. Opresko (1973) and Goldberg (1973b): relatively resistant to temperature and salinity fluctuations. Feingold (1988): black-band disease found on colonies in the Florida Keys.

The slimy sea plume (*Antillogorgia americana*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Antillogorgia* (*Pseudopterogorgia*) *bipinnata* (Verrill, 1864)**
Common name:	bipinnate sea plume
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): the Bahamas, Florida Keys and Antilles, Caribbean islands, northern coast of South America. Opresko (1973), Davis (1982), Jaap (1984), Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992): Honduras. Kocurko (1987): Nicaragua. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela. Bayer (1959): Suriname, Brazil.
Habitat:	Kinzie (1973): 14-55 m depth, characteristic of the fore reef slope. Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973): primarily a patch reef (clear water) species. Jaap (1984), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard bottom (1-2 m). Lasker and Coffroth (1983): fore reef. Sullivan and Chiappone (1992a): transitional reefs. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): channel reefs and fringing reefs. Marquez et al. (1997): 14 m depth, fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The bipinnate sea plume (*Antillogorgia bipinnata*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Antillogorgia* (*Pseudopterogorgia*) *elisabethae* Bayer, 1961***
Common name:	sea plume
Collector name:	purple frilly gorgonian
Collector group:	Purple
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bahamas, Florida Keys, Cuba. Goldberg (1973a): southern Florida. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992), Guzmán (1998): Honduras.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): generally does not occur on reef habitats; depth range typically from 40-70 m but may be found as shallow as 20 m. Goldberg (1973a): shallow reef slope (20-25 m) and fore reef (30+ m). Kinzie (1973): 20-72 m from the shallow to deeper fore-reef slope. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): sand flat and fore reef.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The sea plume *Antillogorgia elisabethae*

Photo credit: J. Sánchez

Photo credit: H. Lasker

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Antillogorgia* (*Pseudopterogorgia*) *kallos* Bielchowsky, 1918***
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	purple plume or bi-pinnate gorgonian
Collector group:	Purple
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Florida Keys, Dry Tortugas and Cuba. Davis (1982), Jaap (1984): Florida Keys, including the Dry Tortugas. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992), Guzmán (1998): Honduras
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): to 20+ m depth, but is occasionally found shallower than 10 m. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): patch reefs, fore reef, and sand flats. Jaap (1984): low-relief hard bottom and transitional reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The sea plume *Antillogorgia kallos*

Photo credit: P. Espitia

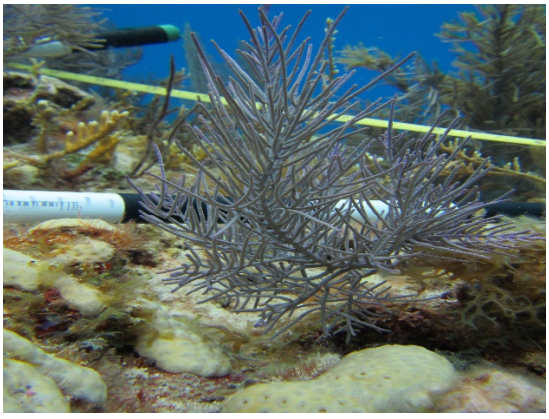

Photo credit: P. Espitia

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Antillogorgia* (*Pseudopterogorgia*) *rigida* (Bielchowsky, 1929)**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys, Greater Antilles including Jamaica, as well as the Lesser Antilles. Hopkins et al. (1977), Grimm and Hopkins (1977): Florida Middle Ground, eastern Gulf of Mexico. Opresko (1973), Goldberg (1973a), Davis (1982): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Lewis and Von Wallis (1991), Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Muzik (1982): Belize. Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Guzmán and Cortés (1985): Costa Rica.
Habitat:	Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs (9 m), outer reef platform (16-20 m) and reef slope (20-30 m). Opresko (1973): lagoon patch reefs (9 m). Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): channel reefs and low-relief hard-bottom.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Pawlik et al. (1987): the genus is considered unpalatable in fish bioassay experiments.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Briareum asbestinum* (Pallas, 1766)***
Common name:	corky sea finger or deadman's fingers
Collector name:	corky sea finger or sea stalk gorgonian
Collector group:	Purple
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea (soft corals), Suborder Scleraxonia, Family Briaridae
Taxonomic comments:	The encrusting form may be a separate species (C.M. Wahle, personal communication).
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961), Cairns (1977): southern Florida, the Bahamas, Caribbean Sea, and West Indies south to Barbados. Colin (1978): Caribbean, Bahamas, southern Florida. Brazeau and Lasker (1990): Panama, Bahamas, Puerto Rico. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Wheaton and Jaap (1988), Wheaton (1987): Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Kinzie (1973), Hughes (1989): Jamaica. Weinberg (1981), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Harvell and Suchanek (1987): Virgin Islands. Jordan (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992), Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Brazeau and Lasker (1992): Panama. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs, outer reef platform, shallow and deep reef slopes, 20-30 m depth. Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Zischke (1973), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard-bottom, lagoon patch reefs, and outer reefs. Kinzie (1973), Colin (1978): surface to 32 m depth, reef flat, and buttress zones. Muzik (1982): almost all hard-bottom habitats and often colonizes dead coral rubble. Hughes (1989): 7-10 m depth. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 9-19 m depth, fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information available on growth rate from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	Lasker (1983), Brazeau (1986): species relies on vegetative growth for propagating new colonies and is a gonochoric brooder. The sex ratio is significantly biased towards male colonies. Male spawning is synchronous and occurs following the full moons of June and July. Fertilization is internal; larvae are negatively buoyant and settle rapidly once displaced from the parental colony (Brazeau and Lasker, 1990). Brazeau and Lasker (1992) observed a positive correlation between female reproductive success with the density and proximity of nearby male colonies.
Other comments:	Ghiold and Smith (1990): susceptible to bleaching (loss of zooxanthellae) due to adverse environmental conditions.

The corky sea finger (*Briareum asbestinum*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Diodogorgia nodulifera* (Hargitt and Rogers, 1901)***
Common name:	colorful sea rod
Collector name:	red finger or yellow finger/colorful sea rod gorgonian
Collector group:	red and other
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Scleraxonia, Family Anthothelidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): southern Florida, Greater and Lesser Antilles, and the shores of South America as far as Surinam. Grimm and Hopkins (1977): Florida Middle Ground, eastern Gulf of Mexico. Goldberg (1973a), Wheaton (1987): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Guzmán (1998): Honduras.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): not present in reef habitats, usually 35 m depth or deeper, but overall depth range from 36-180 m. Goldberg (1973a): fore reef. Kinzie (1973): 35-50 m depth along the deeper fore-reef slope.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Ellisella barbadensis* (Duchassaing and Michelotti, 1864)**
Common name:	devil's sea whip
Collector name:	devil's sea whip
Collector group:	Red
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Calcaxonia, Family Ellisellidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): east coast of Florida, Cuba, and northern shores of Gulf of Mexico, southward through the Antilles (Barbados) to Brazil, at least as far as the mouth of the Amazon River. Goldberg (1973a), Antonius et al. (1978), Wheaton (1987): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Guzmán (1998): Honduras.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): vertical walls and drop-offs, 22-520 m depth, not in reef habitats. Goldberg (1973a): outer reef platform and fore-reef slope (16-25 m). Kinzie (1973): 12-54 m depth.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Ellisella elongata* (Pallas, 1766)**
Common name:	long sea whip
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Calcaxonia, Family Ellisellidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): northern Gulf of Mexico southward through the Antilles and Caribbean to Brazil, at least as far south as the mouth of the Amazon River. Wheaton (1987): Florida Keys. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Lewis and Von Wallis (1991): Tobago.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): 28-240 m depth, not in reef habitats. Kinzie (1973): 24-43 m. Wheaton (1987): > 30 m in deeper fore-reef habitats.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Ellisella* (=*Nicella*) *schmitti* Bayer, 1961**
Common name:	bushy sea whip
Collector name:	red or bushy sea whip
Collector group:	Red
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Calcaxonia, Family Ellisellidae
Taxonomic comments:	Formerly classified in the Genus *Nicella* (Cairns et al., 2002).
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Bayer (1961): Panama.
Habitat:	No information on habitat distribution from the resources consulted. Bayer (1961) cites a collection depth of 34 fathoms (62 m) from the type locality.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Erythropodium caribaeorum* (Duchassaing and Michelotti, 1860)**
Common name:	encrusting gorgonian
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Suborder Scleraxonia, Family Anthothelidae
Taxonomic comments:	Cairns (1977) refers to *Erythropodium polyanthes*, which forms thicker mats and has larger polyps than *E. caribaeorum* (Figure 2, pages 20-21).
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): southern Florida to the Virgin Islands, Caribbean Sea. Nelson et al. (1988): southwest Gulf of Mexico. Goldberg (1973a), Opresko (1973), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Wheaton (1987): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Weinberg (1981): Puerto Rico. Ott and Lewis (1972): Barbados. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Muzik (1982): Belize. Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): clear water, patch reefs and outer reefs. Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs. Kinzie (1973): surface to 30 m depth, but most common on reef flats and the staghorn coral zone. Muzik (1982): lagoon and back reef to fore reef slope. Wheaton (1987): outer reef slope from 20-30 m depth. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 6-17 m depth, fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	Species is generally found encrusting the seabed and can spread across the substratum via vegetative propagation.
Other comments:	Ott and Lewis (1972): preyed upon by the fireworm, *Hermodice caruncullata*.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Eunicea asperula* Milne Edwards and Haime, 1857**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): southern Florida and the Florida Keys to the Lesser Antilles. Nelson et al. (1988): southwestern Gulf coast of Mexico. Antonius et al. (1978), Jaap (1984): Florida Keys. Gonzales-Brito (1970), Preston and Preston (1975): Puerto Rico.
Habitat:	Assumed to be tropical hard-bottom and reef habitats, but specific habitat information is limited from the resources consulted. Voss et al. (1969): nearshore hard-bottom and lagoon patch reefs. This species appears to be restricted to deeper reef habitats (> 20 m depth), including patch reefs (Preston and Preston 1975).
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Eunicea calyculata* (Ellis and Solander, 1786)**
Common name:	warty sea rod
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	Some authors note in field surveys, based upon Bayer (1961), two forms of this species: forma *calyculata* and forma *coronata* (Muzik 1982, Guzmán 1998, Márquez et al. 1998).
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda, Bahamas, south Florida to Curacao. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Grimm and Hopkins (1977): Florida Middle Ground, eastern Gulf of Mexico. Voss and Voss (1955), Goldberg (1973a), Opresko (1973), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Antonius et al. (1978), Jaap (1984), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Preston and Preston (1975), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989a, b): Puerto Rico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela. Van den Hoek et al. (1975): Curacao.
Habitat:	Voss and Voss (1955), Voss et al. (1969): nearshore hard bottom, lagoon patch reefs, and outer reefs. Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs, outer reef platform (16-20 m), shallow slope, and fore reef to 30 m depth. Opresko (1973): more abundant inshore. Van den Hoek et al. (1975): fringing reefs. Muzik (1982): outer reef ridge. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef, spur and groove reefs, and other fore reef habitats. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 10-19 m, fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Opresko (1973): one form is characterized by a well-developed calicular lip; allows species to inhabit areas receiving moderate sediment loads and subjected to abrasion stress. Two intra-specific forms have been observed: colonies with a calicular lip are less common in areas of slow-moving currents, while colonies without a lip are common in areas of slow-moving currents.

The warty sea rod (*Eunicea calyculata*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Eunicea clavigera* Bayer, 1961**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	Bayer (1961) first described this species, which is similar to *Eunicea calyculata*. Identification may be difficult, even with spicule preparations. Species is not listed in Cairns et al. (2002) as occurring in Atlantic waters of the continental U.S.
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda, Bahamas, to Curacao. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Goldberg (1973a), Antonius et al. (1978), Jaap (1984), Wheaton (1987): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Behety (1975): Cuba. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Muzik (1982): Belize.
Habitat:	Muzik (1982): outer ridge and fore reef slope at Carrie Bow Cay, Belize.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Eunicea* (*Plexaura*) *flexuosa* (Lamouroux, 1821)***
Common name:	bent sea rod
Collector name:	purple candelabra/swollen knob candelabrum gorgonian
Collector group:	Purple
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	This species was recently re-classified in the Genus *Eunicea* from *Plexaura*. *Plexaura* X, now known as *Plexaura kuna*, was studied by Dr. H.R. Lasker, then at SUNY-Buffalo. Several historical studies refer to *Plexaura* sp. and may be referring to *P. kuna*.
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda, southern Florida, and throughout the Caribbean islands. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Grimm and Hopkins (1977): Florida Middle Ground, eastern Gulf of Mexico. Nelson et al. (1988): southwestern Gulf of Mexico. Opresko (1973), Goldberg (1973a), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Antonius et al. (1978), Jaap (1984), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Preston and Preston (1975), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992), Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Gonzales-Brito (1972), Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): 1-5 m depth. Voss et al. (1969), Jaap (1984): nearshore hard-bottom, lagoon patch reefs, and outer reefs. Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs, outer reef platform and reef slope (9-30 m). Kinzie (1973): 0-47 m depth, but most common in the staghorn coral zone. Preston and Preston (1975): patch reefs. Muzik (1982): spur-and-groove reefs, outer reef ridge and slope. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): sand flat, patch reefs, and fore reef ridge. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef, spur and groove reefs, and the fore reef slope. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 6-19 m, fringing reefs.
Growth:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): range in mean growth in colony height of 1.77-2.15 cm/yr.
Reproduction:	Goldberg and Hamilton (1974): throughout much of the year, colonies are mostly female; species is a gonochoric brooder.
Other comments:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): relatively high rates of colony annual survivorship (87.1-92.0%). Goldberg and Hamilton (1974): most mortality is due to overtopping of colonies from storms or other high wave-energy events.

The bent sea rod (*Eunicea flexuosa*)

Photo credit: Mark Chiappone

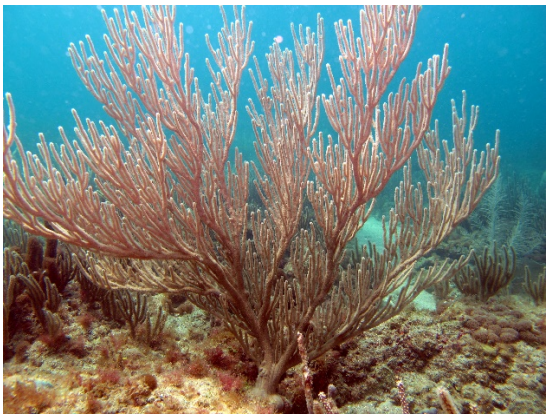

Photo credit: P. Espitia

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Eunicea fusca* Duchassaing and Michelotti, 1860**
Common name:	doughnut sea rod
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	Bayer (1961) first described this species, which is similar to *Eunicea calyculata*. Identification may be difficult, even with spicule preparations.
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda to the Lesser Antilles. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Goldberg (1973), Opresko (1973), Antonius et al. (1978), Jaap (1984), Wheaton (1987): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Guzmán and Cortés (1985): Costa Rica. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs, outer reef platform (16-20 m), deeper reef slope to 30 m depth. Kinzie (1973): 30-35 m, fore reef slope. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): bank reefs. Jaap (1984), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): shallow (1-2 m) low-relief hard bottom and patch reefs. Jordán (1989): fore reef (25 m). Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The doughnut sea rod (*Eunicea fusca*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Eunicea knighti* Bayer, 1961**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): eastern Gulf of Mexico, from Alligator Harbor south to the Florida Keys and northward to the vicinity of Biscayne Bay. Grimm and Hopkins (1977): Florida Middle Ground, eastern Gulf of Mexico. Opresko (1973), Davis (1982), Jaap (1984): Florida Keys. Behety (1975): Cuba. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Guzmán and Cortés (1985): Costa Rica.
Habitat:	Voss et al. (1969), Zischke (1973), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard-bottom (1-2 m) and lagoon patch reefs. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): nearshore, low-relief hard-bottom, patch reefs, and shelf-edge or bank reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Eunicea laciniata* Duchassaing and Michelotti, 1860**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Florida Keys and the West Indies, possibly Bermuda. Nelson et al. (1988): southwestern Gulf of Mexico. Goldberg (1973a), Opresko (1973), Antonius et al. (1978), Jaap (1984), Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Gonzales-Brito (1970), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Muzik (1982): Belize. Guzmán and Cortés (1985): Costa Rica. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs and shallow reef slope to 25 m depth. Kinzie (1973): 15-35 m depth on the fore-reef slope. Muzik (1982): outer reef ridge and fore reef slope. Jaap (1984): low-relief hard bottom, patch reefs, and transitional reefs. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef and spur and groove reefs. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 8-19 m, fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The sea rod *Eunicea laciniata*

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Eunicea mammosa* Lamouroux, 1816**
Common name:	swollen knob candelabrum
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Florida Keys to the Antilles. Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Antonius et al. (1978), Marszalek (1981), Davis (1982), Jaap (1984), Wheaton (1987): Florida Keys. Behety (1975): Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Muzik (1982): Belize. Keith (1992), Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Voss et al. (1969), Jaap (1984), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994b): nearshore hard-bottom, lagoon patch reefs, and outer reefs. Kinzie (1973): 0-25 m depth, but more common in the staghorn coral zone. Davis (1982): octocoral-dominated hard-bottom. Muzik (1982): outer reef ridge. Wheaton (1987): outer reef slope from 20-30 m depth. Jordán (1989): fore reef from 10-25 m depth. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 8-19 m, fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The swollen knob candelabrum (*Eunicea mammosa*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Eunicea palmeri* Bayer, 1961**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	Similar in colony form and branch diameter to *E. succinea* f. *plantaginea* and also known as Palmer's *Eunicea* (Cairns 1977).
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Florida Keys (Soldier Key to Key West). Goldberg (1973a), Cairns (1977), Jaap (1984): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): 1-30 m depth, generally on sandy hard-bottom. Voss et al., (1969), Zischke (1973), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard-bottom and lagoon patch reefs. Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs, outer reef platform (16-20 m) and reef slope to 30 m depth. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): fore reef. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): channel reefs and fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The sea rod *Eunicea palmeri*

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Eunicea succinea* (Pallas, 1766)**
Common name:	shelf-knob sea rod
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	Bayer (1961) described two forms: *succinea* and *plantaginea*.
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): West Indies and possibly Bermuda and the Florida Keys. Cairns (1977): Florida Keys and the Antilles. Goldberg (1973a), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Antonius et al. (1978), Jaap (1984), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Preston and Preston (1975), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Guzmán and Cortés (1985): Costa Rica. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961) described two intra-specific forms: *plantaginea* commonly occurs on patch reefs, while forma *succinea* (typical form) is more common on bank or shelf-edge reefs. Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs. Opresko (1973), Zischke (1973): 1.5-9.0 m depth on low-relief hard bottom. Jaap (1984): transitional reefs. Preston and Preston (1975): deeper (15-20 m) patch reefs. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef and spur and groove reefs. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 13-15 m, fringing reefs.
Growth:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): mean growth in colony height of 1.36 cm/yr.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): relatively high rates of colony annual survivorship (95.8%).

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Eunicea tourneforti* Milne Edwards and Haime, 1857**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	Bayer (1961) described two forms: forma *atra* and forma *tourneforti*. Some authors distinguish these forms in field surveys (e.g. Márquez et al. 1998), but most do not.
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda, Florida Keys, Bahamas, Greater and Lesser Antilles. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Goldberg (1973a), Opresko (1973), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Preston and Preston (1975), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Jordan (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992): Honduras. Guzmán and Cortés (1985): Costa Rica. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela. Van den Hoek et al. (1975): Curacao.
Habitat:	Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard-bottom, lagoon patch reefs, and outer reefs. Goldberg (1973a): outer reef platform from 20-25 m depth and reef slope to 30 m. Kinzie (1973): 0-13 m depth on the reef crest and buttress zone. Preston and Preston (1975): deep-water (15-20 m) patch reefs. Van den Hoek et al. (1975): fringing reefs. Sterrer (1986): outer reefs and reef slope. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): spur and groove reefs and the deeper fore reef. Jordán (1989): fore reef (5 m). Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 6-19 m, fringing reefs.
Growth:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): mean growth in colony height of 2.06 cm/yr.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): relatively high rates of colony annual survivorship (94%).

The sea rod *Eunicea tourneforti*

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Gorgonia flabellum* Linnaeus, 1758**
Common name:	Venus sea fan
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	Bayer (1961) recognizes two forms in this species: forma *flabellum* and forma *occatoria*.
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961), Colin (1978): abundant in the Bahamas, becoming scarce to the south through the Lesser Antilles, uncommon in Florida, and apparently absent from Bermuda. Cairns (1977), Glynn et al. (1989): Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Guzmán and Cortés (1985): Costa Rica. Adams (1968): St. Vincent, Lesser Antilles. Van den Hoek et al. (1975): Curacao.
Habitat:	Adams (1968): windward fringing reefs. Kinzie (1973): 0-30 m depth, but most common on the reef crest. Van den Hoek et al. (1975): fringing reefs. Cairns (1977): patch reefs and outer reefs. Colin (1978): usually below 10 m depth. Jaap (1979): reef flat. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): fore reef ridge. Jordán (1989): lagoon zone (0.1-6 m), rear zone (1-3 m) and breaker zone (0.4-1.2 m). Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Historically collected for the for the shell/curio trade in Florida and the Bahamas (Voss et al. 1969, Cairns 1977). Antonius (1981): rarely encountered with black band disease. Guzmán and Cortés (1984): disease(s?) of unknown etiology have caused mass mortalities in populations off the coasts of Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia. Garzón-Ferreira and Zea (1992), Smith et al. (1996), Nagelkerken et al. (1997): widespread *Aspergillus* fungal infections and mass mortalities related to large river floods and high sediment loads.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Gorgonia ventalina* Linnaeus, 1758**
Common name:	common sea fan
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961), Colin (1978): Bermuda south to Curacao. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Goldberg (1973a), Opresko (1973), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Antonius et al. (1978), Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Weinberg (1981), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992), Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs, outer reef platform and shallow reef slope to 25 m depth. Kinzie (1973): 0-30 m depth, but most common in the coral buttress zone. Muzik (1982): most reef areas. Sterrer (1986): outer reefs and patch reefs. Jaap (1984), Wheaton and Jaap (1988), Chiappone and Sullivan (1997a): back reef, transitional reefs, and shallow spur and groove reefs. Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard bottom (1-2 m) and patch reefs. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 7-11 m, fringing reefs.
Growth:	Birkeland (1974): 2.6 ± 1.9 cm growth over a 230-day period, with relatively low mortality (< 5%). Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): range in mean growth in colony height of 1.92-2.34 cm/yr.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): relatively high rates of colony annual survivorship (92.3-94.8%). Wainwright and Dillon (1969): sea fan orientation is in relation to water motion. Goldberg (1973b): optimal temperature range between 19-31ºC; optimal salinity range between 29.5-39.0 ppt. Morse et al. (1977, 1981): algal tumors, infestation and peripheral necrosis and erosion caused by filamentous algal networks. Antonius (1981): seldom encountered with black band disease and never reported with white band disease. Garzón-Ferreira and Zea (1992), Smith et al. (1996), Nagelkerken et al. (1997): widespread *Aspergillus* fungal infections and mass mortalities related to large river floods and high sediment loads. Preyed upon by *Cyphoma gibbosum* (Harvell and Suchanek 1987, Van Alstyne and Paul 1992). P. Wahle (pers.

comm.): susceptible to predators, diseases, and storm damage. Historically collected for the for the shell/curio trade in Florida and the Bahamas (Voss et al. 1969, Cairns 1977).

The common sea fan (*Gorgonia ventalina*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Iciliogorgia schrammi* Duchassaing, 1870***
Common name:	deep-water sea fan
Collector name:	orange deep-water fan
Collector group:	Red
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Scleraxonia, Family Anthothelidae
Taxonomic comments:	Also known as Schramm's *Iciliogorgia* (Cairns 1977).
General description:	Colonial, ramose, azooxanthellate (Kinzie 1973), non-constructional, and ahermatypic, but may harbor zooxanthellae in shallower water.
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961), Colin (1978): east coast of Florida, the Bahamas, and the West Indies, south to the mouth of the Amazon River. Goldberg (1973a), Cairns (1977), Antonius et al. (1978), Davis (1982), Jaap (1984), Wheaton (1987): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Preston and Preston (1975): Puerto Rico. Muzik (1982): Belize. Guzmán (1998): Honduras.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): 12 to 350+ m depth range. Goldberg (1973a): outer reef platform and reef slope. Kinzie (1973), Colin (1978): 1.5-50 m depth, but more common on the deeper fore-reef slope. Muzik (1982): inner and fore reef slopes.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Goldberg (1973a): colonies uniformly oriented to current direction. Ghiold and Smith (1990), Williams and Bunkley-Williams (1991): susceptible to bleaching (loss of zooxanthellae) due to adverse environmental conditions. Characterized as a fragile coral that is susceptible to storm damage (C.M. Wahle, personal communication).

The deep-water sea fan (*Iciliogorgia schrammi*)

Photo credit: J. Reed

Photo credit:www.noaa.coris.gov

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Leptogorgia* (*Lophogorgia*) *cardinalis* (Bayer, 1961)**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	Formerly in the Genus *Lophogorgia* (Cairns et al., 2002).
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Palm Beach, Florida to the northern coast of Cuba; considered a more temperate species. Hopkins et al. (1977): Florida Middle Ground, eastern Gulf of Mexico. Goldberg (1973a): southeastern Florida. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): not in reef habitats, 30-325 m depth. Goldberg (1973a): fore reef.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Leptogorgia punicea* (Milne Edwards and Haime, 1857)***
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	sea whip or carmine sea spray gorgonian
Collector group:	Red
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, azooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): southern Florida to Brazil.
Habitat:	No information on habitat or depth range from the resources consulted.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The sea whip *Leptogorgia punicea*

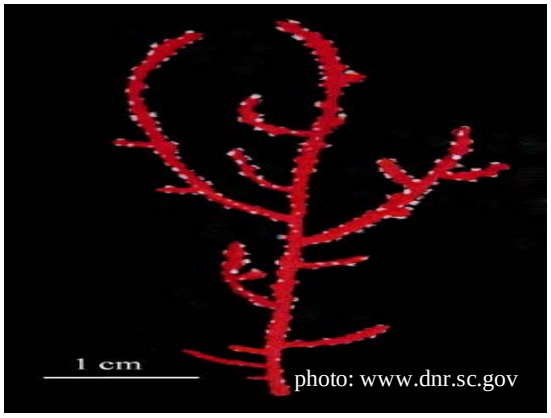

Photo credit: SC DNR

Photo credit: SC DNR

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Leptogorgia virgulata* (Lamarck, 1815)***
Common name:	colorful sea whip
Collector name:	sea whip gorgonian
Collector group:	Red
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, azooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic. Three color morphs have been described: yellow, purple, and orange (Gotelli 1988).
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Possibly northward to the Bay of New York, Chesapeake Bay to Georgia, west coast of Florida to Brazil. Gotelli (1988): northern Gulf of Mexico. C.M. Wahle (pers. comm.): observed this species in Ponce Harbor, Puerto Rico, but it may have been introduced to the Caribbean via shipping traffic.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): not in reef habitats, but common on subtidal hard substrata. Gotelli (1988): 1.5 m depth on nearshore limestone outcroppings.
Growth:	Early post-settlement growth can be relatively rapid, with colonies attaining 6 mm in height after 20 days (Adams 1980 in Gotelli 1988).
Reproduction:	Colonies are gonochoric, with external fertilization and subsequent development (Adams 1980 in Gotelli 1988). Colonies reach reproductive maturity in two years. The planula stage develops within 24 hours and remains in the plankton for 2-3 days, but up to 19 days before settlement and metamorphosis. No evidence of asexual reproduction (Adams 1980 in Gotelli 1988). Peak recruitment during June-July in the northern Gulf of Mexico (Gotelli 1988).
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted. Patton (1972): associated animal symbionts.

The colorful sea whip (*Leptogorgia virgulata*)

Photo credit: Michael AW

Photo credit: SC DNR

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Muricea atlantica* (Riess, 1919 in Kükenthal)**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda, Bahamas, southern Florida and the Florida Keys, Antilles. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Nelson et al. (1988): southwestern Gulf of Mexico. Jaap and Wheaton (1975): Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Preston and Preston (1975): Puerto Rico. Muzik (1982): Belize. Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Guzmán and Cortés (1985): Costa Rica. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela. Marques and Castro (1995): Brazil.
Habitat:	Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Jaap (1984): nearshore hard-bottom, lagoon patch reefs, and outer reefs. Kinzie (1973), Colin (1978): turbulent, sandy areas near reef zone, 0 to 25 m. Pressick (1970), Preston and Preston (1975): patch reefs. Muzik (1982): spur and groove reefs. Sterrer (1986): outer reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 16-19 m, fringing reefs. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Muricea elongata* Lamouroux, 1821**
Common name:	orange spiny sea rod
Collector name:	orange spiny sea rod or rusty gorgonian
Collector group:	Other
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): west coast of Florida, the Keys and Dry Tortugas, Bahamas, Antilles. Grimm and Hopkins (1977): Florida Middle Ground, eastern Gulf of Mexico. Opresko (1973), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): Florida Keys. Behety (1975): Cuba. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Gonzales-Brito (1972): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard bottom (1-2 m), lagoon patch reefs, and outer reefs. Characterized as a secondary inshore species with little habitat specificity compared to other octocorals (Opresko 1973). Wheaton (1987): outer reef slope (20-30 m). Cairns (1977): inshore sandy hard-bottom to 3 m depth. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef, spur and groove reefs, and other fore reef habitats.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The orange spiny sea rod (*Muricea elongata*)

Photo credit: Wikimedia.org

Photo credit: P. Espitia

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Muricea laxa* Verrill, 1864**
Common name:	delicate spiny sea rod
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): west coast of Florida, Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas, Bahamas, Antilles. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Grimm and Hopkins (1977): Florida Middle Ground, eastern Gulf of Mexico. Goldberg (1973a), Marszalek (1981), Wheaton (1987): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela. Marques and Castro (1995): possibly Brazil.
Habitat:	Goldberg (1973a): fore reef. Kinzie (1973): 25 to 54 m, fore reef slope. Sterrer (1986): found rarely at 2 m, usually outer reef. Cairns (1977): 18 to 28 m. Wheaton (1987): outer reef slope (20-30 m) and fore reef (30+ m). Márquez et al. (1997): 19 m depth, fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Muricea muricata* (Pallas, 1766)**
Common name:	spiny sea fan
Collector name:	spiny sea fan
Collector group:	Other
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Florida to Curacao. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Nelson et al. (1988): southwestern Gulf of Mexico. Goldberg (1973a), Davis (1982), Wheaton (1987): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Gonzales-Brito (1970), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992), Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Gonzales-Brito (1972), Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela. Van den Hoek et al. (1975): Curacao.
Habitat:	Voss et al. (1969): nearshore hard-bottom, lagoon patch reefs, and outer reefs. Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs and outer reef platform from 16-20 m depth. Kinzie (1973): 0-10 m depth in the rear zone and on the reef crest. Van den Hoek et al. (1975): fringing reefs. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): sand flat, fore reef and fore reef ridge. Sterrer (1986): patch reefs and outer reefs. Wheaton (1987): outer reef slope from 20-30 m depth. Jordán (1989): fore reef from 15-25 m depth. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 7-12 m, fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The spiny sea fan (*Muricea muricata*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: P. Espitia

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Muricea pinnata***
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	long spiny sea fan or silver gorgonian
Collector group:	Other
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	
Habitat:	
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The long spiny sea fan (*Muricea pinnata*)

Photo credit: C. Messing

Photo credit: C. Messing

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Muriceopsis flavida* (Lamarck, 1815)***
Common name:	rough sea plume
Collector name:	purple brush or bottle brush gorgonian
Collector group:	Purple
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): south Florida and the West Indies, possibly Bermuda. Sterrer (1986): not reported from Bermuda. Jaap and Wheaton (1975): Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Preston and Preston (1975), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992), Guzmán (1998): Honduras.
Habitat:	Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Jaap (1984): nearshore hard-bottom, lagoon patch reefs, and outer reefs. Kinzie (1973): 0-33 m depth, but most common in the rear reef, reef crest, and mixed zones. Preston and Preston (1975): patch reefs. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): sand flat areas, patch reefs, and the fore reef. Wheaton (1987): outer reef slope from 20-30 m depth. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef, spur and groove reefs, and bank reefs. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs.
Growth:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): mean growth in colony height of 1.85 cm/yr.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): relatively high rates of colony annual survivorship (92.4%). Optimal salinity and temperature ranges provided for other species in the genus (Goldberg, 1973b).

The rough sea plume (*Muriceopsis flavida*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: P. Espitia

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Muriceopsis petila* Bayer, 1961**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Caribbean. Goldberg (1973a), Wheaton (1987): southeastern Florida, the Florida Keys, and Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Muzik (1982): Belize.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): 72 m+ depth. Goldberg (1973a): deep reef slope to 30 m depth. Kinzie (1973): 24-55 m depth on the deeper fore-reef slope. Muzik (1982): low-relief spur and groove and outer ridge reef on the Belize barrier reef. Wheaton (1987): fore reef to 30+ m depth.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Optimal salinity and temperature ranges provided for other species in the genus (Goldberg 1973b).

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Plexaura homomalla* (Esper, 1792)**
Common name:	black sea rod
Collector name:	black sea rod
Collector group:	Other
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	Bayer (1961) described two forms: forma *homomalla* that occurs in shallower water (0-30 m) and forma *kükenthali* that has more slender branches and occurs from 15-50 m depth. Colin (1978) notes two forms: one in shallow water (0-30 m), the other with more slender branches from 15-50 m depth. Some authors distinguish the two forms in field surveys (e.g. Yoshioka and Yoshioka 1991, Guzmán 1998), but most do not. Bayer and Deichmann (1958) described a deep-water species (*P. nina*), documented in a few other studies and bearing a close resemblance to *P. homomalla* (Preston and Preston 1975).
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961), Colin (1978): Bermuda, southern Florida, and the West Indies. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Opresko (1973), Davis (1982), Jaap (1984), Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): Florida Keys. Lewis and Von Wallis (1991), Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Gonzales-Brito (1970), Preston and Preston (1975), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992), Guzmán (1998): Honduras. Kocurko (1987): Nicaragua. Gonzales-Brito (1972), Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Jaap (1984): nearshore hard-bottom, lagoon patch reefs, and outer reefs. Kinzie (1973): 0-30 m depth, but most common in the rear zone. Preston and Preston (1975): deeper patch reefs. Muzik (1982): spur and groove, outer ridge and slope. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): fore reef, fore reef ridge, sand flat, patch reefs. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef and spur and groove. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989): shelf-edge reefs. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 7-18 m depth, fringing reefs.
Growth:	Kinzie (1974): average annual growth estimated at 2 cm/yr. and ranging from 4.2-13 cm/yr.; mortality is mostly due to overtopping of colonies. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): range in mean growth in colony height of 1.18-1.99 cm/yr.
Reproduction:	This octocoral is a gonochoric brooder. Throughout most of the year, colonies are female until the spawning season in April (Goldberg and Hamilton 1974).

	Opresko (1973): rate of recruitment estimated at 0.6 colonies per m^2 per year on experimentally cleared areas on patch reefs.
Other comments:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): relatively high rates of colony annual survivorship (891.-89.7%). Morse et al. (1981): filamentous algae associated with nodular mesogleal infestations. Ghiold and Smith (1990): susceptible to bleaching (loss of zooxanthellae) due to adverse environmental conditions. C.M. Wahle (pers. comm.): susceptible to disease(s) of unknown etiology(ies). Bayer and Weinheimer (1974), Gerhart (1984): contains naturally high concentrations of prostaglandins, probably serving as a chemical defense, in its tissues and was considered a major medical resource, but prostaglandins are now synthesized.

The black sea rod (*Plexaura homomalla*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: P. Espitia

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Plexaura kuna***
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	*Plexaura* X, now known as *Plexaura kuna*, was initially studied by H.R. Lasker, SUNY-Buffalo. Several historical studies make reference to *Plexaura* sp. and may be referring to *P. kuna*.
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	
Habitat:	
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Plexaurella dichotoma* (Esper, 1791)***
Common name:	slit-pore sea rod
Collector name:	giant slit-pore or large polyp gorgonian
Collector group:	Other
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda, southern Florida, throughout the Antilles, reefs of Brazil. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Gonzales-Brito (1970), Preston and Preston (1975), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b): Puerto Rico. Opresko (1973), Goldberg (1973a), Davis (1982), Wheaton (1987), Jaap (1984), Jaap and Wheaton (1975): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Keith (1992): Honduras. Kocurko (1987): Nicaragua. Jordán (1989): Yucatan, Mexico. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Gonzales-Brito (1972), Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela. Van den Hoek et al. (1975): Curacao.
Habitat:	Voss and Voss (1955), Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Zischke (1973), Jaap (1984), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard bottom, lagoon patch reefs, and outer reefs. Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs (9 m), outer reef platform (16-20 m), and shallow slope to 25 m. Kinzie (1973): 0 to 49 m, mixed zone. Van den Hoek et al. (1975): fringing reefs. Muzik (1982): low-relief spur and groove reefs, outer reef ridge and reef slope. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): fore reef. Wheaton (1987): outer reef slope (20-30 m). Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 9-18 m, fringing reefs.
Growth:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): mean growth in colony height of 0.80 cm/yr.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): relatively high rates of colony annual survivorship (96.6%). Preyed upon by *Cyphoma signatum* and *C. gibbosum* (Harvell and Suchanek 1987). May be collected for carving (C.M. Wahle, pers. comm.).

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Plexaurella fusifera* Künze, 1916**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	brown tree gorgonian
Collector group:	Other
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): southern Florida and the Antilles. Grimm and Hopkins (1977): Florida Middle Ground, eastern Gulf of Mexico. Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988), Jaap (1984), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Davis (1982): Florida Keys. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b): Puerto Rico. Guzmán and Cortés (1985): Costa Rica.
Habitat:	Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Zischke (1973), Jaap (1984), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard-bottom and lagoon patch reefs. Goldberg (1973a): outer reef platform (16-20 m) and shallow slope to 25 m. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef and shallow spur and groove.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The sea rod *Plexaurella fusifera*

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: J. Mellein

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Plexaurella grisea* Künze, 1916**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Florida Keys (?), Antilles and Caribbean. Goldberg (1973a), Opresko (1973), Davis (1982), Jaap (1984), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): southern Florida. Lewis and Von Wallis (1991), Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Gonzales-Brito (1970), Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b): Puerto Rico. Lewis et al. (1992): Tobago. Jordan (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Kocurko (1987): Nicaragua.
Habitat:	Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs (9 m) and outer reef platform (16-20 m). Kinzie (1973): deep fore reef (33 m). Opresko (1973): primarily patch reefs, but occasionally found inshore. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): low-relief spur and groove reefs and back reef. Jaap (1984): low-relief hard bottom. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	May be collected for carving (C.M. Wahle, pers. comm.).

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Plexaurella nutans* (Duchassaing and Michelotti, 1860)***
Common name:	giant slit-pore sea rod
Collector name:	giant slit-pore or large polyp gorgonian
Collector group:	Other
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): southern Florida, Gulf of Mexico and West Indies. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Opresko (1973), Davis (1982), Jaap (1984), Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b): Puerto Rico. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela. Lewis et al. (1992): Tobago.
Habitat:	Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Jaap (1984): nearshore hard-bottom and lagoon patch reefs. Kinzie (1973): fore reef, 10-50 m depth. Wheaton (1987): fore reef (30+ m) and outer reef slope. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef and low-relief spur and groove. Márquez et al. (1997): 16-18 m, fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	May be collected for carving (C.M. Wahle, pers. comm.).

The giant slit-pore sea rod (*Plexaurella nutans*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: P. Espitia

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Plexaurella pumila* Verrill, 1864**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Cairns et al. (2002): not listed as occurring in U.S. Atlantic waters outside of the Caribbean, but Goldberg (1973) listed this species in southeastern Florida. Bayer (1961): reefs of Brazil, Lesser Antilles, Caribbean, and possibly the coast of Mexico. Goldberg (1973a): southern Florida. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Bayer (1959): Brazil.
Habitat:	Goldberg (1973a): fore reef and deep reef slope (25-30 m). Jordán (1989): shelf-edge reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	May be collected for carving (C.M. Wahle, pers. comm.).

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Pseudoplexaura crucis* Bayer, 1961**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Cairns et al. (2002): not listed as occurring in U.S. Atlantic waters outside of the Caribbean, but Goldberg (1973), Opresko (1973), and Wheaton and Jaap (1988) indicate distribution in southern Florida. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Bayer (1961): Virgin Islands. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): 6 m. Goldberg (1973a): fore reef to 30+ m depth. Kinzie (1973): fore reef, 20 m. Opresko (1973): patch reefs; genus generally confined to clear-water, ecologically stable environments. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef (6 m), spur and groove reefs (5-9 m), fore reef (9 m) and low-relief hard bottom communities (9-11 m). Márquez et al. (1997): 8 m depth, fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	May be collected for carving (C.M. Wahle, pers. comm.).

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Pseudoplexaura flagellosa* (Houttuyn, 1772)**
Common name:	porous sea rod
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda, Florida Keys, West Indies, possibly as far south as Curacao. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Opresko (1973), Cairns (1977), Davis (1982), Jaap (1984), Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988), Glynn et al. (1989): Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b), Gonzales-Brito (1970): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992): Honduras. Guzmán and Cortés (1985): Costa Rica. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Kinzie (1973): fore reef slope, 15-50 m depth. Cairns (1977): reef environments, 3-30 m depth. Opresko (1973), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): lagoon patch reefs. Zischke (1973): nearshore hard-bottom. Jaap (1984): patch reefs and transitional reefs. Sterrer (1986): 5-15 m depth on inner and outer reefs. Muzik (1982): outer reef ridge and reef slope. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): sand flats. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef, spur and groove reefs, and deeper fore-reef habitats. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 9 m depth, fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Morse et al. (1981), Goldberg and Makemson (1981), Glynn et al. (1989): filamentous algae associated with nodular, mesogleal infestations. May be collected for carving (C.M. Wahle, pers. comm.).

The porous sea rod (*Pseudoplexaura flagellosa*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Pseudoplexaura porosa* (Houttuyn, 1772)**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	purple tree gorgonian
Collector group:	Purple
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda, southern Florida, West Indies south to Colombia and Curacao. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Opresko (1973), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Davis (1982), Jaap (1984), Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988), Glynn et al. (1989): Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Behety (1975): Cuba. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b), Gonzales-Brito (1970): Puerto Rico. Jordán (1989): Caribbean coast of Mexico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Keith (1992): Honduras. Kocurko (1987): Nicaragua. Guzmán and Cortés (1985): Costa Rica. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela. Lewis et al. (1992): Tobago. Van den Hoek et al. (1975): Curacao.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): may occur to 283 m depth. Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Zischke (1973), Jaap (1984), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard-bottom, lagoon patch reefs, and outer reefs. Kinzie (1973): 0-49 m depth, reef flat and buttress zone. Van den Hoek et al. (1975): fringing reefs. Muzik (1982): outer reef ridge and reef slope. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): patch reefs, fore reef and fore reef ridge. Sterrer (1986): 1-15 m depth on nearshore patch reefs and outer reefs. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef, spur and groove reefs and fore reef. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): patch reefs, channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs. Márquez et al. (1997): 7-17 m depth, fringing reefs.
Growth:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): range in mean growth in colony height of 1.98-2.22 cm/yr.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): relatively high rates of colony annual survivorship (89.6-92.9%). Goldberg and Makemson (1981), Glynn et al. (1989): incidence of disease reported in southern Florida, consisting of isolated reports of algal-associated tumors. May be collected for carving (C.M. Wahle, pers. comm.).

The sea rod *Pseudoplexaura porosa*

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Pseudoplexaura wagenaari* (Stiasny, 1941)**
Common name:	No common name listed in Cairns et al. (2002).
Collector name:	not applicable
Collector group:	not applicable
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda, southern and western Florida as far north as Anclote Keys, West Indies south to the Venezuelan islands. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Grimm and Hopkins (1977): Florida Middle Ground, eastern Gulf of Mexico. Opresko (1973), Jaap (1984), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Wheaton (1987), Wheaton and Jaap (1988), Davis (1982): Florida Keys. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b): Puerto Rico. Keith (1992): Honduras. Kocurko (1987): Nicaragua. Márquez et al. (1997): Venezuela.
Habitat:	Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973), Jaap (1984): nearshore hard-bottom and lagoon patch reefs. Kinzie (1973): fore reef, 10-30 m depth. Cairns (1977): sandy bottoms, 2-30 m depth. Sterrer (1986): inner and outer reefs from 5-15 m depth. Wheaton (1987): outer reef slope (20-30 m). Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef and bank reefs. Keith (1992): fore reef (15 m). Márquez et al. (1997): 6-17 m depth, fringing reefs.
Growth:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): range in mean growth in colony height of 2.13-2.57 cm/yr.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1991): relatively high rates of colony annual survivorship (91.4-95.9%). May be collected for carving (C.M. Wahle, pers. comm.).

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Pterogorgia anceps* (Pallas, 1766)***
Common name:	angular sea whip
Collector name:	purple ribbon or angular sea whip gorgonian
Collector group:	Purple
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Voss and Voss (1955), Opresko (1973), Zischke (1973), Jaap and Wheaton (1975), Antonius et al. (1978), Marszalek (1981), Davis (1982), Wheaton and Jaap (1988): Florida Keys. Lewis and Von Wallis (1991), Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b): Puerto Rico. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Kocurko (1987): Nicaragua.
Habitat:	Voss and Voss (1955), Voss et al. (1969), Chiappone and Sullivan (1994a): nearshore hard bottom (1-2 m). Kinzie (1973): inshore hard bottom areas (7-15 m), also dominant species in rear zone (0.5-2 m) on fringing reefs. Opresko (1973): characterized as a primary inshore species; depth range is intermediate between the other two species in the genus. Zischke (1973), Davis (1982): nearshore hard-bottom. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): sand flat and patch reefs. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): back reef (6 m). Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): channel reefs and low-relief hard-bottom.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Pawlik et al. (1987), Pawlik and Fenical (1992): highly unpalatable in fish bioassay experiments due to secondary metabolites.

The angular sea whip (*Pterogorgia anceps*)

Photo credit: P. Espitia

Photo credit: P. Espitia

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Pterogorgia citrina* (Esper, 1792)**
Common name:	yellow sea whip
Collector name:	yellow ribbon or yellow sea whip gorgonian
Collector group:	Other
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Bermuda, southern Florida and the Florida Keys, to Curacao. Sterrer (1986): Bermuda. Voss and Voss (1955), Goldberg (1973a), Opresko (1973), Wheaton and Jaap (1988), Davis (1982), Marszalek (1981), Jaap and Wheaton (1975): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica. Muzik (1982), Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize. Yoshioka and Yoshioka (1989b), Gonzales-Brito (1970): Puerto Rico.
Habitat:	Voss and Voss (1955), Voss et al. (1969), Opresko (1973): nearshore hard-bottom and lagoon patch reefs. Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs (9 m). Kinzie (1973): 2-10 m depth, with the shallowest depth range of the three species in the genus, but may found on deeper reef slopes. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): sand flats. Sterrer (1986): inshore. Wheaton and Jaap (1988): spur and groove reefs. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	No information on additional life history parameters, including sources of mortality, from the resources consulted.

The yellow sea whip (*Pterogorgia citrina*)

Photo credit: M. Chiappone

Photo credit: P. Espitia

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Pterogorgia guadalupensis* Duchassaing and Michelin, 1846**
Common name:	grooved-blade sea whip
Collector name:	purple blade/flat-blade/grooved-blade sea whip gorgonian
Collector group:	Purple
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Gorgoniidae
Taxonomic comments:	
General description:	Colonial, ramose, zooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Florida Keys to Curacao. Hopkins et al. (1977): Florida Middle Ground, eastern Gulf of Mexico. Goldberg (1973a), Antonius et al. (1978), Davis (1982), Wheaton (1987): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): Bahamas. Gonzales-Brito (1970), Preston and Preston (1975): Puerto Rico. Lasker and Coffroth (1983): Belize.
Habitat:	Goldberg (1973a): patch reefs (9 m) and shallow reef slope (20-30 m). Kinzie (1973): 5-30 m depth, with the deepest depth range of any species in the genus. Preston and Preston (1975): patch reefs (15-20 m). Lasker and Coffroth (1983): sand flat areas. Chiappone and Sullivan (1997b): channel reefs, low-relief hard-bottom, and fringing reefs.
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Pawlik et al. (1987): The Genus *Pterogorgia* is characterized as unpalatable in fish bioassay experiments.

The grooved-blade sea whip (*Pterogorgia guadalupensis*)

Photo credit: P. Espitia

Photo credit:www.coralbiome.com

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	***Swiftia exserta* (Duchassaing and Michelotti, 1864)***
Common name:	shelf-knob sea rod
Collector name:	orange tree or red polyp gorgonian
Collector group:	Red
Taxonomy:	Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), Class Anthozoa, Subclass Alcyonaria (=Octocorallia), Order Alcyonacea, Suborder Holaxonia, Family Plexauridae
Taxonomic comments:	Formerly classified in the Family Paramuriceidae (Bayer 1961, Cairns et al., 2002).
General description:	Colonial, ramose, azooxanthellate, non-constructional, ahermatypic
Geographic range:	Bayer (1961): Caribbean (not discussed). Goldberg (1973a), Wheaton (1987): southeastern Florida and the Florida Keys. Kinzie (1973): Jamaica.
Habitat:	Bayer (1961): depth range to 66+ m. Goldberg (1973a): deep reef slope and fore reef, greater than 30 m depth. Kinzie (1973): characteristic of deep fore-reef slope (50 m). Wheaton (1987): outer reef slope (20-30 m) and fore reef (30+ m).
Growth:	No information on growth from the resources consulted.
Reproduction:	No information on reproduction or recruitment from the resources consulted.
Other comments:	Collected for the aquarium trade (C.M. Wahle, pers. comm.).

The shelf-knob sea rod (*Swiftia exserta*)

Photo credit: qualitymarine.com

Photo credit:ultimatereef.net

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