

Checklist of the Hermatypic Corals of Vanuatu¹

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ABSTRACT: Reef-building corals of Vanuatu are listed in systematic order. All records are from original field studies carried out over a wide range of environments along the length of the island arc. A total of 296 species belonging to 62 genera is recorded. Of these, only 24 species have not also been recorded from the Great Barrier Reef, and thus this study includes comparisons between the corals of Vanuatu and those of the Great Barrier Reef.

THIS IS A COMPANION study to that undertaken in the Philippines (Veron and Hodgson 1989) and is intended to provide data for ongoing biogeographic studies within the central Indo-Pacific, as well as taxonomic support for further coral research in Vanuatu.

Because of the great similarity between the corals of Vanuatu and those of the Great Barrier Reef, species descriptions from the latter region (Veron and Pichon 1976, 1980, 1982, Veron and Wallace 1984 [summarized by Veron 1986]) are used for comparisons.

Apart from a small collection of corals incorporated into Chevalier's (1971) treatise, there have been no previous systematic studies of the hermatypic corals of Vanuatu. Late Pleistocene ahermatypic corals have recently been described by Wells (1984), and the structure of emerged micro-atolls has been analyzed by Taylor et al. (1987). Done and Navin (in prep.) provide details of the community structure of shallow-water reef corals. The latter study was undertaken in conjunction with the present one at similar, but not necessarily the same, sites.

COLLECTING STATIONS AND METHODS

Stations are listed below in the order in which they were studied (Figure 1). An accumulative species inventory was compiled, with the aim of reaching a complete species list

for Vanuatu as a whole. Stations were selected to incorporate the widest possible range of environments. Hermatypic corals of each station were studied until no further species were recorded.

Species clearly recognized *in situ* were not collected. Where there appeared to be a significant difference between the appearance of a species at Vanuatu and the same species on the Great Barrier Reef, a specimen, or a series of specimens, was collected for study at the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

In the following annotations, "shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies" means that colonies (or collected coralla) fall within the known range of variation of the species on the Great Barrier Reef. The only exception is color in species where color has no taxonomic significance.

All stations were studied using Scuba.

1. Near Lelepa I., Éfaté, 8-12 m. Exposed; faviid dominated.
2. Eastern Moso I., Éfaté, 2-25 m. Protected; high diversity.
3. Northern Moso I., Éfaté, 2-8 m. Partly exposed; sand and rubble substrate.
4. Northern Tana, 5-16 m. Very exposed; high diversity.
5. Western Tana, 15-30 m. Very exposed; turbid; low diversity and low coral cover.
6. Eastern Tana, 0-2 m. Very exposed reef flat.
7. Eastern Tana, 17-25 m. Exposed; wave-cut, undulating rock substrate; moderate diversity except for *Acropora*.
8. Southern Aneityum, 15-25 m. Exposed;

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wave-cut undulating rock substrate; high diversity except for *Acropora*.

9. Southern Aneityum, 18–22 m. Sand and rubble substrate; low diversity.
10. Northern Aneityum, 5–15 m. Exposed reef edge; low diversity due to *Acanthaster* predation.

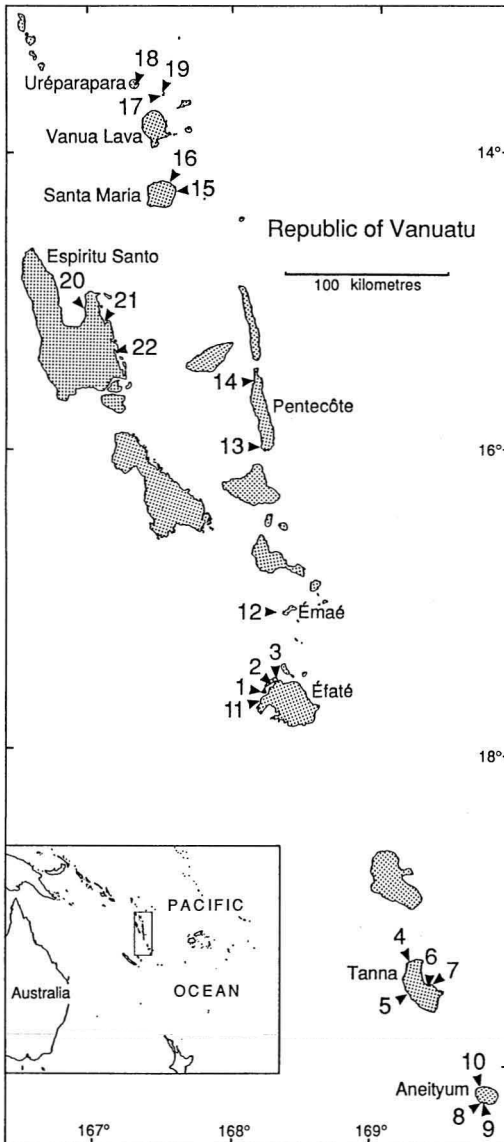


FIGURE 1. Locations of study sites (see text for explanation).

11. Western Éfaté, 4–10 m. Very exposed; high diversity.
12. Émaé I., Shepherd Is., 8–17 m. Exposed upper reef slope; moderate diversity.
13. Southern Pentecost I., 0–27 m. Partly exposed fringing reef merging onto sand.
14. Northwestern Pentecost I., 14–17 m. Partly exposed fringing reef with a moderate diversity of *Acropora*.
15. Northeastern Santa Maria I., Banks Is., 10–30 m. Protected lagoon entrance; soft substrate; low diversity.
16. Northeastern Santa Maria I., Banks Is., 5–15 m. Very protected; soft substrate; low diversity.
17. Reef Is., Banks Is., 2–4 m. Lagoon; low diversity.
18. Uréparapara I., Banks Is., 1–12 m. Protected; substrate of rubble and soft sand; low diversity.
19. Reef Is., Banks Is., 10–25 m. Exposed outer face; high diversity.
20. Northeastern Espiritu Santo I., 10–50 m. Protected; low diversity.
21. Hog Harbour, Espiritu Santo I., 5–25 m. Protected; gently sloping rock substrate; very high diversity.

Family ASTROCOENIIDAE Toby

Genus *Stylocoeniella* Yabe & Sugiyama

Stylocoeniella guentheri (Bassett-Smith)

Uncommon, found on both exposed and protected reef faces. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 21.

Family POCILLOPORIDAE Gray

Genus *Pocillopora* Lamarck

Pocillopora damicornis (Linnaeus)

Very common in a wide range of habitats. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Pocillopora verrucosa (Ellis & Solander)

Very common, especially on upper reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 21.

Pocillopora meandrina Dana

Common in some stations. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Pocillopora eydouxi Edwards & Haime

Common in most exposed upper reef slopes. Similar to colonies from the Great Barrier Reef although large colonies were seldom found in Vanuatu.

Collected from station 21.

Genus *Seriatopora* Lamarck

Seriatopora hystrix Dana

Very common, especially on upper reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Seriatopora caliendrum Ehrenberg

Rare. Found commonly only at station 19. Colonies are very distinct and pale yellow or cream in color.

Collected from station 19.

Genus *Stylophora* Schweigger

Stylophora pistillata Esper

Very common, especially in exposed shallow upper slopes, where colonies often have very thick branches. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Palauastrea* Yabe & Sugiyama

Palauastrea ramosa Yabe & Sugiyama

Found only at stations 20 and 21, where it was common in deep water. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 20.

Family ACROPORIDAE Verrill

Genus *Montipora* de Blainville

Three specimens, belonging to two species, have not been identified, but as none show clearly distinctive characters there remains the possibility that they are abnormal specimens of known species.

Montipora monasteriata (Forskål)

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 4.

Montipora hoffmeisteri Wells

Common, usually brightly colored. Shows no taxonomic differences in situ from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Montipora millepora Crossland

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 1.

Montipora floweri Wells

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences in situ from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Montipora mollis Bernard

Uncommon.

Montipora peltiformis Bernard

Probably uncommon.

Collected from stations 3, 8, and 11.

Montipora turgescens Bernard

Probably common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 1, 2, 3, and 11.

Montipora capricornis Veron

Very common at 10–20 m depth, where it forms large vase-shaped colonies. There are differences in skeletal detail from coralla from eastern Australia that require further study.

Collected from station 8.

Montipora spumosa Lamarck

Uncommon; no large colonies recorded.

Collected from stations 1 and 11.

Montipora undata Bernard

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 21.

Montipora spongodes Bernard

Observed in situ at station 1 only.

Montipora danae (Edwards & Haime)

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Montipora verrucosa (Lamarck)

Common and usually very distinctively colored: orange-brown with bright blue polyps. Shows no taxonomic difference from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Montipora capitata (Dana)

Common on reef flats. Shows no taxonomic differences from Philippines colonies.
Collected from stations 3 and 21.

Montipora venosa (Ehrenberg)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.
Collected from station 7.

Montipora incrassata (Dana)

Probably common.
Collected from stations 1 and 12.

Montipora foveolata (Dana)

Common; almost always pink. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.
Collected from station 8.

Montipora caliculata (Dana)

Very common and more polymorphic than observed on the Great Barrier Reef.
Collected from stations 4, 5, 11, and 19.

Montipora samarensis Nemenzo

Very common on reef flats.
Series collected from stations 6 and 16.

Montipora altasepta Nemenzo

Very common on protected reef flats.
Series collected from station 18.

Montipora digitata (Dana)

Very common on reef flats. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.
Collected from stations 3 and 16.

Montipora hispida (Dana)

Very common and forms large reddish-orange colonies.
Collected from stations 2, 6, and 11.

Montipora informis Bernard

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.
Collected from station 2.

Montipora nodosa (Dana)

A single specimen collected from station 2 shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef coralla.

Montipora corbettensis Veron & Wallace

A single specimen collected from station 3 is placed in this species with doubt.

Montipora efflorescens Bernard

Uncommon.

Montipora grisea Bernard

Sometimes common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.
Collected from station 2.

Montipora foliosa (Pallas)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Montipora cebuensis Nemenzo

Uncommon.
Collected from station 7.

Montipora crassituberculata Bernard

Very common in a wide range of biotopes. Series collected from stations 1, 2, 11, and 12.

Montipora aequituberculata Bernard

Mostly uncommon.
Collected from station 21.

Genus *Anacropora* Ridley*Anacropora forbesi* Ridley

Common at stations 2 and 20 and was dominant at a depth of over 30 m at station 20. Rare and restricted to lagoons elsewhere.
Series collected from stations 14 and 20.

Anacropora puertogalerae Nemenzo

Rare. Found only at stations 2 and 20. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Anacropora reticulata (Veron)

Rare. Found only at station 20.

Genus *Acropora* Oken*Acropora palifera* (Lamarck)

Very common, especially on exposed upper reef slopes. Has a wide range of variation, showing no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora cuneata (Dana)

Relatively common on exposed upper reef slopes. Colonies have smaller corallites than normally found on the Great Barrier Reef, and the species is more readily distinguished from *Acropora palifera* than it is on the Great Barrier Reef.

Collected from stations 7 and 8.

Acropora brueggemanni (Brook)

Uncommon; found on exposed upper and protected lower reef slopes, also in lagoons.

Acropora humilis (Dana)

Common on exposed upper reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora gemmifera (Brook)

Common on exposed upper reef stations; mostly pale colors. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora monticulosa (Brüggemann)

Common on exposed upper reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora samoensis (Brook)

Common on most reef slopes and also in lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora digitifera (Dana)

Common on exposed upper reef slopes and exposed intertidal reef flats. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora verweyi (Veron & Wallace)

Common on upper and lower reef slopes and also in lagoons. Has prominent yellow tips to branchlets, showing no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 3 and 20.

Acropora lovelli Veron & Wallace

Recorded from a single specimen collected at station 20.

Acropora robusta (Dana)

Common on exposed upper reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora danai (Edwards & Haime)

Common on exposed upper reef slopes and also some lower slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora palmerae Wells

Rare. Found only at station 21 on an exposed intertidal reef flat.

Acropora nobilis (Dana)

Common on reef slopes and in lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 12.

Acropora polystoma (Brook)

Uncommon; found on upper and lower reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora listeri (Brook)

Uncommon; found on upper and lower reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora grandis (Brook)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 4, 20, and 21.

Acropora formosa (Dana)

Very common in most reef habitats. Forms very extensive mono-specific stands at station

2. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora abrolhosensis Veron

Recorded from a single specimen collected from station 3.

Acropora acuminata (Verrill)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great barrier Reef colonies. Dried specimens do not retain a black color as they normally do on the Great Barrier Reef and elsewhere.

Collected from station 3.

Acropora valenciennesi (Edwards & Haime)

Sometimes common, especially on exposed reef slopes. Most colonies are gray; they show no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora parilis Quelch

Common on some protected upper slopes and lagoons.

Series collected from station 2.

Acropora exquisita Nemenzo

Usually uncommon.

Collected from station 2.

Acropora microphthalma (Verrill)

Common in some deeper protected reef slopes, pale gray. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Series collected from station 3.

Acropora copiosa Nemenzo

Common on some lower reef slopes.

Collected from stations 2 and 13.

Acropora austera (Dana)

Common in a wide range of reef habitats. Colonies usually have yellow tips to branches although some are deep blue. Shows no structural differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 4.

Acropora aspera (Dana)

Common only on some reef flat stations. Not seen on reef slopes.

Acropora pulchra (Brook)

Common on protected reef slopes and in lagoons, where it may form extensive mono-specific stands. Most common color is creamy blue, and polyps were usually extended during the day.

Acropora millepora (Ehrenberg)

Common on exposed upper reef slopes and sometimes found in lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 1 and 2.

Acropora tenuis (Dana)

Common in a wide variety of reef habitats; usually cream or gray, occasionally yellow. Shows no structural differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora selago (Studer)

Common on protected reef slopes and in some lagoons. Branches are shorter and thicker than normally found in Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora donei Veron & Wallace

Uncommon; found only in lagoons, where it may form large, flattened tablelike colonies; these show no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora dendrum (Bassett-Smith)

Uncommon; pale brown or pink. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 2.

Acropora yongei Veron & Wallace

Uncommon; found on partly exposed reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 4.

Acropora cytherea (Dana)

Common, especially on exposed upper reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 3 and 21.

Acropora microclados (Ehrenberg)

Common on exposed upper reef slopes, where colonies are mostly finely branched. They are usually gray. In these respects they show minor differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora paniculata (Verrill)

Sometimes common on upper or lower reef slopes, where large, thick, platelike colonies are formed. These were always gray and usually had polyps extended during the day.

Acropora hyacinthus (Dana)

Common on exposed upper reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 7.

Acropora anthocercis (Brook)

Uncommon; found only on exposed upper reef slopes, where colonies show no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora latistella (Brook)

Common on protected reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 3 and 8.

Acropora subulata (Dana)

Common on protected reef slopes and in lagoon colonies; they are mostly blue and show no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Series collected from station 3.

Acropora nana (Studer)

Common in exposed shallow upper reef slopes to a depth of approximately 5 m, mostly blue. Shows no structural differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora aculeus (Dana)

Rare. One yellow colony from station 21 showed no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Also collected from station 4.

Acropora cerealis (Dana)

Common from a wide range of reef stations. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora nasuta (Dana)

Common on upper and lower reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Series collected from station 3.

Acropora valida (Dana)

Common, especially on exposed upper reef slopes, where colonies have two color morphs. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora secale (Studer)

Common on upper and lower reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 2 and 19.

Acropora lutkeni Crossland

Usually uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Series collected from station 4.

Acropora clathrata (Brook)

Sometimes common on upper or lower reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora divaricata (Dana)

Common in a wide range of reef habitats. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora rambleri Bassett-Smith

Uncommon.

Collected from stations 12 and 20.

Acropora solitaryensis Veron & Wallace

Common in a wide range of habitats. Colonies show less fusion of branches than those in most tropical eastern and western Australian stations.

Series collected from station 8; also collected from stations 5 and 13.

Acropora echinata (Dana)

Very common in some lower reef slope stations and some lagoons and may form very extensive mono-specific stands. Colonies are grayish green; otherwise they show no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora subglabra (Brook)

Common in some lagoons, where it forms extensive mono-specific stand. Colonies are usually dark gray and show no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora carduus (Dana)

Common only in lagoons, where it may form very extensive mono-specific stands. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 2.

Acropora elseyi (Brook)

Common on lower reef slopes and in lagoons and may form extensive mono-specific stands. Branches usually have white tips. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora longicyathus (Edwards & Haime)

Common in lagoons, where it may form very extensive mono-specific stands. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 2 and 20.

Acropora rosaria (Dana)

Uncommon: recorded from a few exposed upper reef slopes. Colonies are blue and show no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 10.

Acropora loripes (Brook)

Common on upper and lower reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 20.

Acropora chesterfeldensis Veron & Wallace

Common on some reef slopes.

Acropora granulosa (Edwards & Haime)

Sometimes common and found in a wide variety of reef habitats from upper reef slopes to lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 21.

Acropora caroliniana Nemenzo

Rare. Found only on some lower reef slopes. Colonies are gray and show no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora willisae Veron & Wallace

Uncommon; found on shallow exposed upper reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acropora florida (Dana)

Common on a wide range of reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 12.

Acropora sarmentosa (Brook)

Sometimes common on upper and lower reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 3.

Genus *Astreopora* de Blainville*Astreopora myriophthalma* (Lamarck)

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Astreopora gracilis Bernard

Rare except at station 20, where colonies show no differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Astreopora explanata Veron

Common on protected upper reef slopes. Colonies are usually encrusting and do not form tiers as they commonly do in Western Australia.

Series collected from station 2; also collected from station 7.

Astreopora macrostoma Veron & Wallace

Recorded from a single specimen, collected at station 11.

Family PORITIDAE Gray

Genus *Porites* Link

Abundance estimates were not made for massive *Porites* species, and it is likely that this list is incomplete for those species. One submassive species, recorded from a single specimen, has not been identified.

Porites solida (Forskål)

Collected from station 11.

Porites lobata Dana

Series collected from station 1; also collected from stations 9 and 11.

Porites australiensis Vaughan

Series collected from stations 1 and 20; also collected from stations 3 and 13.

Porites lutea Edwards & Haime

Collected from stations 1, 2, and 9.

Porites stephensoni Crossland

Collected from station 15.

Porites cylindrica Dana

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 15.

Porites nigrescens Dana

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Series collected from station 15.

Porites sillimaniani Nemenzo

Shows no taxonomic difference from Philippine colonies. Collected from station 15.

Porites latistella Quelch

Shows no taxonomic differences from Philippines colonies.

Collected from station 3.

Porites attenuata Nemenzo

Very common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Philippines colonies.

Series collected from station 3; also collected from station 8.

Porites deformis Nemenzo

Collected from station 15.

Porites lichen Dana

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Porites annae Crossland

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Porites vaughani Crossland

Uncommon in most biotopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 1 and 3.

Porites horizontalata Hoffmeister

Series collected from station 2.

Porites rus (Forskål)

Common in some biotopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Goniopora* de Blainville

One specimen remains unidentified. It is branching, has very small corallites, and is close to *Goniopora* sp. 3 of Veron and Marsh (1988).

Goniopora djiboutiensis Vaughan

Rare. Recorded from occasional in situ sightings only.

Goniopora stokesi Edwards & Haime

Rare. Found mostly on soft substrates. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 15.

Goniopora lobata Edwards & Haime

Common on protected reef slopes and lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Goniopora columna Dana

Common on lower reef slopes and lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Series collected from station 2.

Goniopora somaliensis Vaughan

Very common; forms extensive encrusting colonies up to 5 m in diameter; usually pinkish or brown; found mostly on lower reef slopes and in lagoons.

Series collected from station 4.

Goniopora tenuidens (Quelch)

Very common, especially on upper reef slopes and in shallow lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Goniopora minor Crossland

Very common on protected reef slopes and in lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Series collected from station 2; also collected from station 10.

Goniopora pandoraensis Veron & Pichon

Recorded from a single specimen from station 2.

Goniopora stutchburyi Wells

Uncommon; usually gray and found on upper reef slopes. Corallites are mostly smaller than usually found in Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Alveopora* de Blainville*Alveopora catalai* Wells

Rare. Found only at station 2, where colonies form long mono-specific stands. Showed no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Alveopora marionensis Veron & Pichon

Uncommon; usually gray and found on upper and lower reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Series collected from station 2.

Alveopora fenestrata (Lamarck)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies. Series collected from station 9; also collected from station 8.

Alveopora verrilliana Dana

Uncommon; collected only from station 4.

Alveopora spongiosa Dana

Uncommon; found on upper and lower reef slopes; usually dark brown. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 14.

Alveopora tizardi Bassett-Smith

Recorded from a single specimen collected from station 7.

Family SIDERASTREIDAE Vaughan & Wells

Genus *Pseudosiderastrea* Yabe & Sugiyama*Pseudosiderastrea tayami* Yabe & Sugiyama

Very rare, but found in several exposed habitats. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 22.

Genus *Psammocora* Dana*Psammocora digitata* Edwards & Haime

Rare. Collected only from station 3.

Psammocora contigua (Esper)

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 2, 3, and 14.

Psammocora superficialis Gardiner

Sometimes common on some reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Psammocora profundacella Gardiner

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 3, 10, and 12.

Psammocora haimeana Edwards & Haime

Rare. Collected only from station 12.

Psammocora vaughani Yabe & Sugiyama

Rare. Collected only from station 11.

Psammocora sp. 1

Rare. Collected only from station 4. The same species as *Psammocora* sp. 1 of the Philippines (Veron and Hodgson 1989).

Psammocora sp. 2

Rare. Collected only from station 18. The same species as *Psammocora* sp. 2 of Western Australia (Veron and Marsh 1988).

Genus *Coscinaraea* Edwards & Haime*Coscinaraea exesa* (Dana)

Common on upper and lower reef slopes; usually gray, sometimes yellow. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Coscinaraea columna (Dana)

Common on upper and lower reef slopes; mostly gray. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Family AGARICIIDAE Gray

Genus *Pavona* Lamarck*Pavona cactus* (Forskål)

Uncommon; found only in some lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Pavona decussata (Dana)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 15.

Pavona explanulata (Lamarck)

Usually uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 3, 4, 7, and 15.

Pavona clavus (Dana)

Very rare, with only a single colony (from station 20) recorded. This shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Pavona minuta Wells

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differ-

ences from Great Barrier Reef colonies, but no very large colonies were recorded.

Pavona varians Verrill

Common in most reef stations. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Pavona venosa (Ehrenberg)

Uncommon, but relatively more common than usual for the Great Barrier Reef. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 3.

Pavona maldivensis (Gardiner)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Pavona sp. 1

Uncommon except at station 4. Close to *Pavona bipartita* Nemenzo. Previously recorded from several central Indo-Pacific locations.

Series collected from station 4.

Pavona sp. 2

An unidentified species collected only from station 16.

Genus *Leptoseris* Edwards & Haime

Leptoseris was generally much less common than normal for most central Indo-Pacific locations.

Leptoseris papyracea (Dana)

Collected in shallow water, with *Pavona cactus*, at station 16. Not observed elsewhere.

Leptoseris explanata Yabe & Sugiyama

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 5.

Leptoseris scabra Vaughan

Rare. Restricted to protected lower reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 2.

Leptoseris mycetoseroides Wells

Rare. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 19.

Leptoseris incrustans (Quelch)

Uncommon.

Collected from stations 8, 12, and 19.

Leptoseris yabei (Pillai & Scheer)

Rare. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Gardineroseris* Scheer & Pillai*Gardineroseris planulata* (Dana)

Rare. Usually found only on upper reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 21.

Genus *Coeloseris* Vaughan*Coeloseris mayeri* Vaughan

Very common on some exposed upper reef slopes and sometimes on lower slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Series collected from station 12; also collected from station 11.

Genus *Pachyseris* Edwards & Haime*Pachyseris rugosa* (Lamarck)

Very common; forms very large colonies in some lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Pachyseris speciosa (Dana)

Rare. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 2.

Family FUNGIIDAE Dana

Genus *Cycloseris* Edwards & Haime

All specimens observed were collected.

Cycloseris patelliformis (Boschma)

Rare. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef coralla. Series collected

from station 5; also collected from stations 3, 9, and 20.

Genus *Heliofungia* Wells*Heliofungia actiniformis* (Quoy & Gaimard)

Uncommon; found only on protected reef slopes and in lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Fungia* Lamarck*Fungia (Fungia) fungites* (Linnaeus)

The most common *Fungia* of Vanuatu. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef coralla.

Collected from stations 3 and 15.

Fungia (Danafungia) danai Edwards & Haime

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef coralla.

Fungia (Danafungia) horrida Dana

Uncommon.

Collected from stations 4, 5, and 13.

Fungia (Danafungia) valida Verrill

Uncommon.

Collected from stations 9 and 20.

Fungia (Danafungia) klunzingeri Döderlein

Uncommon. Septal dentations observed in situ are less regular than usual for Great Barrier Reef coralla.

Fungia (Verrillofungia) repanda Dana

Common.

Series collected from stations 1 and 3; also collected from stations 7 and 20.

Fungia (Verrillofungia) concinna Verrill

Common.

Series collected from stations 14 and 20; also collected from stations 2 and 5.

Fungia (Verrillofungia) granulosa Klunzinger

Common.

Collected from stations 4 and 20.

Fungia (Verrillofungia) sp.

This species has not been previously found by me.

Series collected from station 1; also collected from station 15.

Fungia (Pleuractis) scutaria Lamarck

Very common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef coralla.

Fungia (Pleuractis) paumotensis Stutchbury

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef coralla.

Collected from station 3.

Fungia (Ctenactis) echinata (Pallas)

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef coralla.

Fungia (Ctenactis) simplex Gardiner

Rare. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef coralla.

Genus *Herpolitha* Eschscholtz

Herpolitha limax Houttuyn

Common on a wide range of reef stations.

Genus *Polyphyllia* Quoy & Gaimard

Polyphyllia novaehiberniae Lesson

Restricted to some protected reef slope habitats and some lagoons. Large aggregations appear to be produced by fragmentation.

Series collected from station 14; also collected from station 13.

Genus *Halomitra* Dana

Halomitra pileus (Linnaeus)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 20.

Genus *Sandalolitha* Quelch

Sandalolitha robusta Quelch

Common in a wide range of reef stations. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Zoopilus* Dana

Zoopilus echinatus Dana

Very rare; only one colony observed, at station 2.

Genus *Lithophyllon* Rehberg

Lithophyllon undulatum Rehberg

Uncommon on upper and lower reef slopes; colonies were generally similar to those of Western Australia, becoming much larger than those found on the Great Barrier Reef.

Genus *Podabacia* Edwards & Haime

Podabacia crustacea (Pallas)

Uncommon. Shows same range of variation as Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 15.

Podabacia sp.

More common than *P. crustacea*. Has been recorded from Papua New Guinea (Veron and Kelley 1988) and the Philippines (Veron and Hodgson 1989).

Collected from stations 1, 4, and 9.

Family OCULINIDAE Gray

Genus *Galaxea* Oken

Galaxea astreata (Lamarck)

Common on some protected lower reef slopes; usually gray or cream. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Galaxea fascicularis (Linnaeus)

Very common on protected lower reef slopes and in lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Acrhelia* Edwards & Haime

Acrhelia horrescens (Dana)

Colonies are gray, mostly small, and often found in turbid environments. Otherwise they show no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Family PECTINIIDAE Vaughan & Wells

Genus *Echinophyllia* Klunzinger*Echinophyllia aspera* (Ellis & Solander)

Mostly confined to protected reef slopes and lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Oxypora* Saville-Kent*Oxypora lacera* (Verrill)

Common on upper and lower reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Mycedium* Oken*Mycedium elephantotus* (Pallas)

Uncommon; usually found only on protected reef slopes and in lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Mycedium robokaki Moll & Borel-Best

Sometimes common and occurs on most reef slopes.

Collected from stations 16 and 20.

Genus *Pectinia* Oken*Pectinia lactuca* (Pallas)

Common; always blue-gray or gray. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Pectinia paeonia (Dana)

Common, especially on lower reef slopes and in lagoons. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Pectinia alcicornis (Saville-Kent)

May form very large colonies in some lagoons; often orange-brown. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Family MUSSIDAE Ortmann

Cynarina was not found during this study.

Genus *Blastomussa* Wells*Blastomussa wellsii* Wijnsman-Best

Recorded only at station 4, where it was red. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Scolymia* Haime*Scolymia vitiensis* Brüggemann

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Acanthastrea* Edwards & Haime*Acanthastrea* sp. 1

This is a conspicuous species with very large corallites. Found north to Japan and south to the Cook Is. There is considerable geographic variation over this range. Vanuatu colonies are dark brown with cream calice centers.

Collected from stations 1 and 12.

Acanthastrea echinata (Dana)

Common only on some upper reef stations, where it shows a very wide range of colors. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Acanthastrea hillae Wells

Rare. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 5.

Acanthastrea bowerbanki Edwards & Haime

Very rare. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 1.

Acanthastrea sp. 2

A single colony with very small calices. Appears to be a distinct species.

Collected from station 4.

Genus *Lobophyllia* de Blainville*Lobophyllia hemprichii* (Ehrenberg)

Very common on most reef slopes. Skeletal indentations tend to be sharper and more spine-like than normally found in Great Barrier Reef colonies. Is not a clearly defined species.

Collected from station 3.

Lobophyllia diminuta Veron

Sometimes common on upper reef slopes. Only a single specimen has been recorded from the Great Barrier Reef.

Collected from station 1.

Lobophyllia corymbosa (Forskål)

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Lobophyllia pachysepta Chevalier

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 3.

Genus *Symphyllia* Edwards & Haime*Symphyllia recta* (Dana)

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Symphyllia radians Edwards & Haime

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Symphyllia agaricia Edwards & Haime

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Symphyllia valenciennesii Edwards & Haime

Rare. A corallum from station 9 is clearly within the range of Great Barrier Reef coralla.

Family MERULINIDAE Verrill

Genus *Hydnophora* Fischer de Waldheim*Hydnophora rigida* (Dana)

Sometimes common, especially on protected lower reef slopes.

Hydnophora pilosa Veron

Uncommon. Restricted to lower reef slopes and lagoons. Colonies had tentacles extended during the day and show no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef or Western Australian colonies.

Collected from station 3.

Hydnophora exesa (Pallas)

Usually uncommon and found only on pro-

tected lower reef slopes and in lagoons. Colonies have finer montecules than normally found in those on the Great Barrier Reef; otherwise there are no skeletal differences.

Hydnophora microconos (Lamarck)

Common on some upper exposed reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Merulina* Ehrenberg*Merulina ampliata* (Ellis & Solander)

Usually uncommon but found on upper and lower reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Merulina scabricula Dana

Often common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Scapophyllia* Edwards & Haime*Scapophyllia cylindrica* Edwards & Haime

Uncommon to rare. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies. Collected from station 3.

Family FAVIIDAE Gregory

Genus *Caulastrea* Dana*Caulastrea furcata* Dana

Small colonies were observed at station 1. Not seen elsewhere. Color variation is the same as for Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Caulastrea curvata Wijsman-Best

Recorded from a single specimen collected from station 5.

Genus *Favia* (Dana)

It is likely that at least one species is not included below.

Favia stelligera (Dana)

Common on exposed reef slopes. Pale orange or gray. Most colonies have slightly larger corallites than is usual for Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 8 and 12.

Favia helianthoides Wells

Rare. Found only on exposed slopes.
Collected from stations 5 and 7.

Favia pallida (Dana)

Common on most reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Favia speciosa (Dana)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.
Collected from station 3.

Favia favyus (Forskål)

Uncommon on most reefs. Found in a wide range of environments and shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Favia lizardensis Veron & Pichon

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.
Collected from station 3.

Favia matthai Vaughan

Common over a wide range of environments. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Favia sp.

Uncommon but occurs over a wide range of environments. Has a wide range of bright colors. Is structurally very similar to *Favia rotumana*, but corallites are approximately half the size of those of *F. rotumana*.

Collected from stations 4, 5, and 9.

Favia rotundata Veron & Pichon

Uncommon. Colonies are cream in color and show no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 1 and 3.

Favia maritima (Nemenzo)

Uncommon. Occurs over a wide range of environments. Gray.

Favia veroni Moll & Borel-Best

Uncommon, but more common than on the

Great Barrier Reef. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Barabattoia* Yabe & Sugiyama*Barabattoia amicorum* Edwards & Haime

Uncommon but very distinctive. Mostly dark colors. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Favites* Link*Favites abdita* (Ellis & Solander)

Common over a wide range of environments. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Favites halicora (Ehrenberg)

Uncommon. Greenish yellow. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Favites flexuosa (Dana)

Uncommon. Has more prominent septa than usually found in Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Favites chinensis (Verrill)

Uncommon but found over a wide range of environments.

Favites complanata (Ehrenberg)

Uncommon. Found mostly on exposed upper reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Favites pentagona (Esper)

Common only at station 8 and much less common than on the Great Barrier Reef, but has the same wide range of colors.

Favites russelli (Wells)

Uncommon except on some exposed upper slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Goniastrea* Edwards & Haime*Goniastrea retiformis* (Lamarck)

Common on exposed upper reef slopes.

Cream in color. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Goniastrea edwardsi Chevalier

Common on exposed upper reef slopes. Cream or pink. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 3.

Goniastrea favulus (Dana)

Uncommon, except at station 16. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 7.

Goniastrea aspera Verrill

Common on some exposed upper reef slopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Goniastrea pectinata (Ehrenberg)

Common on exposed upper reef slopes. Usually creamy pink. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 7.

Goniastrea australensis (Edwards & Haime)

Uncommon except on some upper reef slopes (notably station 8). Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Platygyra* Ehrenberg

Platygyra daedalea (Ellis & Solander)

Common over a wide range of environments. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 1 and 9.

Platygyra lamellina (Ehrenberg)

Usually uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Platygyra sinensis (Edwards & Haime)

Common at some stations. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Platygyra ryukyuensis Yabe & Sugiyama

Rare except at station 3.

Collected from stations 1 and 3.

Platygyra pini Chevalier

Uncommon. May be some differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 3.

Platygyra sp.

Uncommon. The same species as *Platygyra* sp. of Veron and Hodgson (1989).

Series collected from station 4; also collected from station 7.

Genus *Leptoria* Edwards & Haime

Leptoria phrygia (Ellis & Solander)

Common. Gray. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 9.

Genus *Oulophyllia* Edwards & Haime

Oulophyllia crispa (Lamarck)

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Oulophyllia bennettiae (Veron & Pichon)

Common. Has the same color pattern as Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 11.

Genus *Montastrea* de Blainville

Montastrea curta (Dana)

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 11.

Montastrea annuligera (Edwards & Haime)

Uncommon.

Collected from station 1.

Montastrea multipunctata Hodgson

Recorded from a single specimen collected from station 1.

Montastrea magnistellata Chevalier

Common, especially in exposed biotopes.

Colonies have a uniform appearance and are uniformly pale brown.

Series collected from station 9; also collected from stations 3 and 12.

Montastrea valenciennesi (Edwards & Haime)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Plesiastrea* Edwards & Haime

Plesiastrea versipora (Lamarck)

Uncommon and restricted to protected biotopes. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from stations 1 and 4.

Genus *Diploastrea* Matthai

Diploastrea heliophora (Lamarck)

Very abundant on exposed upper reef slopes and is the dominant species of station 19. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Leptastrea* Edwards & Haime

Leptastrea inaequalis Klunzinger

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Leptastrea purpurea (Dana)

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 3.

Leptastrea transversa Klunzinger

Common. Colonies are greenish yellow and have uniform corallites. They are thus more distinct from *L. purpurea* than is usual for Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Series collected from station 1; also collected from station 12.

Leptastrea pruinosa Crossland

Uncommon. Corallites have pink borders. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Genus *Cyphastrea* Edwards & Haime

Cyphastrea serailia (Forskål)

Very common in a wide range of environments and shows a wide range of skeletal variation.

Cyphastrea microphthalma (Lamarck)

Mostly uncommon. Colonies are yellowish cream and have irregular shapes. They show some distinctive coenosteum characters.

Collected from stations 1 and 7.

Cyphastrea japonica Yabe & Sugiyama

Uncommon. Yellow or mustard colored. They do not form thin branches as they frequently do on the Great Barrier Reef. Corallites show no taxonomic differences from those of Great Barrier Reef coralla.

Collected from stations 4 and 7.

Genus *Echinopora* Lamarck

Echinopora lamellosa (Esper)

Very common over a wide range of environments. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Echinopora gemmacea (Lamarck)

Uncommon. Usually yellowish green, with large corallites.

Collected from station 2.

Echinopora hirsutissima Edwards & Haime

Recorded from two colonies, both uniform gray, from stations 1 and 7. These show no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Echinopora mammiformis (Nemenzo)

Very common at station 2, where it forms mono-specific stands. Less common elsewhere. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Echinopora horrida (Dana)

Common. Mostly gray. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Family CARYOPHYLLIIDAE Gray

Genus *Euphyllia* Dana

Euphyllia glabrescens (Chamisso & Eysenhardt)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Euphyllia cristata Chevalier

Rare. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 8.

Euphyllia yaeyamaensis (Shirai)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Philippines and Japanese colonies.

Collected from station 5.

Genus *Plerogyra* Quelch

Plerogyra simplex Rehberg

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Philippines colonies.

Collected from station 8.

Plerogyra sinuosa (Dana)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 8.

Genus *Physogyra* Quelch

Physogyra lichtensteini (Edwards & Haime)

Uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Family DENDROPHYLLIIDAE Gray

Genus *Turbinaria* Oken

Turbinaria peltata (Esper)

Usually uncommon. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Turbinaria patula (Esper)

Sometimes common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Series collected from station 7; also collected from station 5.

Turbinaria frondens (Dana)

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 3.

Turbinaria mesenterina (Lamarck)

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 3.

Turbinaria reniformis Bernard

Common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 4.

Turbinaria stellulata (Lamarck)

Sometimes common. Shows no taxonomic differences from Great Barrier Reef colonies.

Collected from station 4.

DISCUSSION

A total of 296 species belonging to 62 genera of reef corals was found during this study. Considered as a whole, this fauna is very similar to that of the Great Barrier Reef, not only in number of species, but in ecological distribution, range of growth forms, in situ appearance, color, and so forth.

Only 24 species recorded during this study have not been found on the Great Barrier Reef. Of these, 18 occur in the Philippines (Veron and Hodgson 1989) and all but 4 (a *Pavona*, a *Fungia*, an *Acanthastrea*, and a *Favia*) have been recorded elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific. *Psammocora* sp. 2 has only been recorded from Western Australia (Veron and Marsh 1988), and *Polyphyllia novaehiberniae* Lesson is only known from the eastern Coral Sea east to Samoa (Lamberts 1984 [as *Lithactinia novaehiberniae*]).

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