**PECTINIIDAE**

*Pectinia lactuca* (Pallas, 1766)

**En** - Lettuce coral.

Common from below the reef flat to the limit of coral growth. Colonies form large plates covered with thin, high collines that form radiating valleys. The plates may be more than 1 m in diameter while the collines may reach several centimetres in height. Corallites are widely spaced with septocostae continuous between them. West to Thailand, south to central Great Barrier Reef, north to southern Japan, and east to Vanuatu.

**POCILLOPORIDAE**

*Pocillopora verrucosa* (Ellis and Solander, 1786)

**En** - Rasp coral; **Fr** - Corail lime; **Sp** - Coral raspa.

Found from the reef flat to a depth of 25 m. Colonies irregularly branching (ramose), less than 30 cm in diameter, covered with verrucae; corallites plocoid, about 1 mm across, found both on verrucae and in between. Stout branches usually more than 10 mm in diameter, but this varies with exposure to water movement and depth. Colonies growing in shallow water or exposed to wave action tend to have thick sturdy branches while those from deep calm waters tend to have thinner branches. Colour is mottled light brown in life and skeleton usually has reddish brown patches after cleaning. This species and *Pocillopora damicornis* are the 2 most commonly exploited corals in the area. East to Hawaii and Panama, south to southern Great Barrier Reef, west to Red Sea, and north to Japan.
**Seriatopora caliendrum** Ehrenberg, 1834

**En** - Birdsnest coral.

This species is very similar to *Seriatopora hystrix* in preferred habitat, colony size, growth form, and general appearance. The major differences are that the branches are somewhat stouter, and this thickness extends almost to the blunt branch tips, whereas in *S. hystrix*, branch diameter tends to decrease with distance, with branch tips forming fairly sharp points. Upon close inspection, the corallites are usually hooded, giving the branches a rough appearance. Red Sea and East Africa to Vanuatu.

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**Seriatopora hystrix** Dana, 1846

**En** - Thin birdsnest coral.

A fragile, weedy species often found in dense thickets in a depth range of about 6 to 20 m. Individual colonies (up to 30 cm diameter) are formed of thin branches (2 to 5 mm diameter) which frequently bifurcate and anastomose. Corallites are tiny, superficial, and form rows running from the tip to the base of the branch. Common throughout the Indo-Pacific region.
**Stylophora pistillata** Esper, 1797

**En** - Smooth cauliflower coral.

Common from the reef flat to intermediate depths. A ramose coral, up to 50 cm in diameter, with smooth rounded branches growing from a common origin. Upon close inspection, a small half-hood can be seen on one side of each corallite. Shows a high degree of variation in branch thickness depending upon depth and degree of exposure, with more delicate forms found in deeper, more protected biotopes. West to Africa, south to Lord Howe Island (Australia), east to French Polynesia, and north to Japan.

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**Heliopora coerulea** (Pallas, 1766)

**En** - Blue coral.

Most common in shallow water. Forms large colonies, more than 1 m in diameter, that may be massive, or most commonly, composed of vertical branches or folia. The surface appearance is very smooth, and the color in life is a distinctive grey-brown with white tips. The entire skeleton is blue and therefore this species is commonly exploited for decorative uses. West to Red Sea, north to southern Japan, east to Samoa, and south to New Caledonia.
**Tubipora musica** Linnaeus, 1758

**En** - Organpipe coral.
Common from the reef flat to intermediate depths. Colonies form mounds up to 50 cm diameter that may dominate large patches of reef. The colonies are composed of thin tubes (the “organ pipes”), 2 mm diameter in length, cemented together by horizontal plates at intervals of several centimetres. In life, the corals have white polyps that may cover the corallum. The skeleton is deep red, widely prized for aquarium displays. West to Red Sea, north to Japan, east to Vanuatu, south to Houtman Abrolhos Islands.

**Millepora platyphylla** Hemprich and Ehrenberg, 1834

**En** - Wello fire coral.
Most common in shallow to intermediate depths. Forms large colonies, commonly 2 to 3 m in diameter and composed of anastomosed vertical plates, which may reach 2 m in height. In life, colonies have a characteristic light brown color, with white growing edges. If touched, a sharp sting can be felt when coming into contact with soft skin. West to Red Sea, north to Japan, east to Marquesas, and south to Houtman Abrolhos Islands.