

COIBA FIELD GUIDE – CORALS AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES



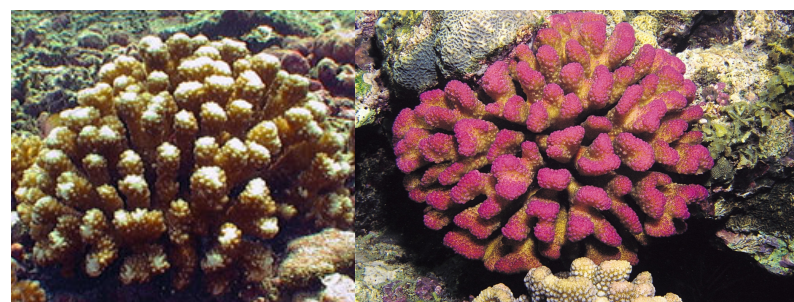
By Matthieu Leray – Photos from Maté et al. (2017)¹, Veron et al. (2016)², Reef Life Survey, Matthieu Leray & Arthur Anker

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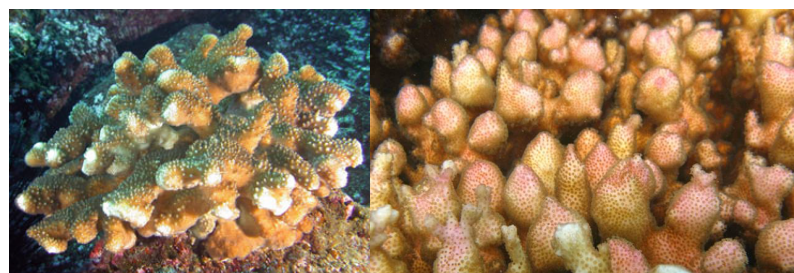
Pocillopora capitata

Branches are tall and upright, cylindrical in section, flattened at the tip. Verrucae are elongate of irregular size and irregularly distributed



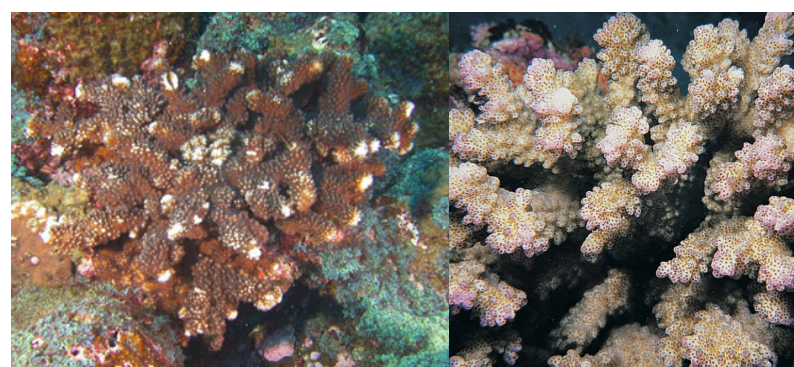
Pocillopora elegans

Colonies are often compact clumps composed of uniform, thick, upright branches with flattened ends. Verrucae are uniform, rounded and smooth



***Pocillopora inflata* (uncommon)**

Branches are short, irregular, swollen towards their tips. Verrucae are sparse, short or absent.



Pocillopora verrucosa

Uniform upright branches thick/compact in exposed habitats but open/thinner in protected habitats. Verrucae are irregular in size.



Millepora platyphylla Blade fire coral



Pocillopora damicornis

No clear distinction between verrucae and branches. Colonies are compact when exposed, thin when protected



Pocillopora eydouxi

Stout, upright, flattened branches. Branches widely separated or compact when exposed. Verrucae are uniform in shape and spacing.



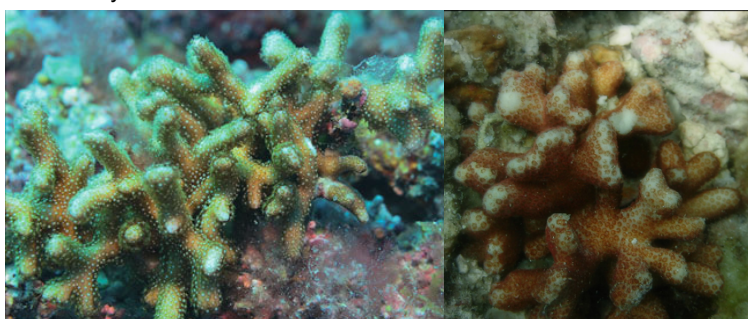
Pocillopora meandrina

Branches radiate from initial point of growth. They are flattened, sometimes curved when viewed from above. Verrucae neat, uniform.



Millepora intricata

Colonial hydroid



Porites sverdrupi

Eastern Pacific endemic

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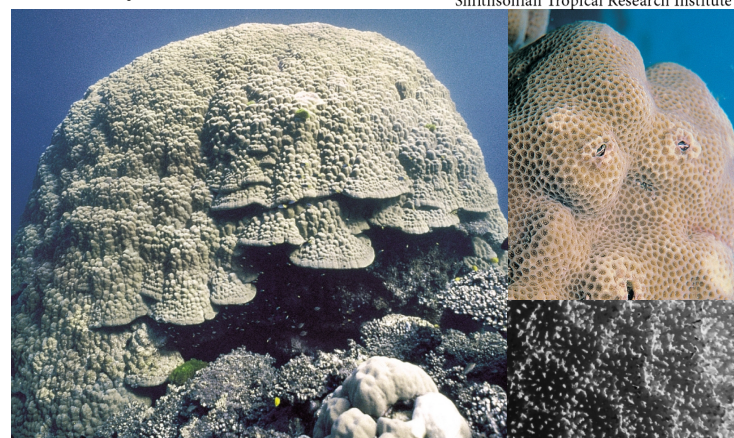


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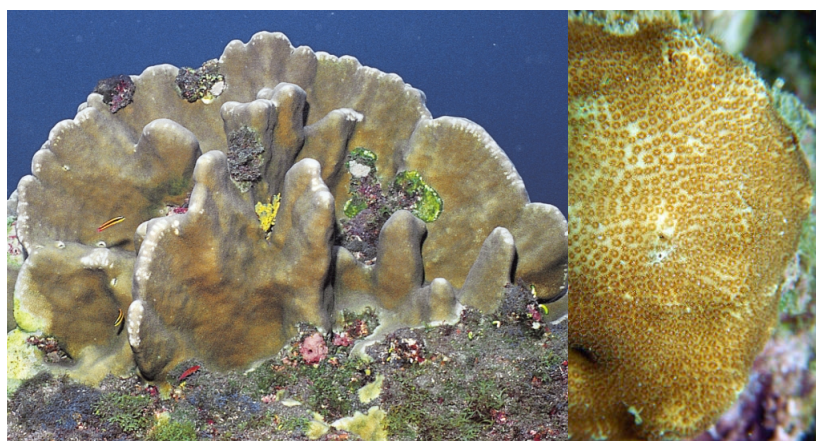
Porites arnaudi

Colonies are flat plates which may be arranged as tiers or whorls. Corallites are compact and deeply excavated.



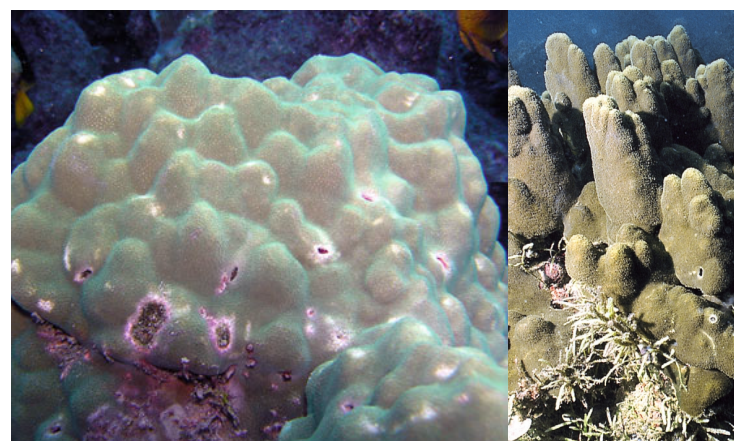
Porites lobata

Colonies are usually hemispherical or helmet-shaped and may be over four meters across



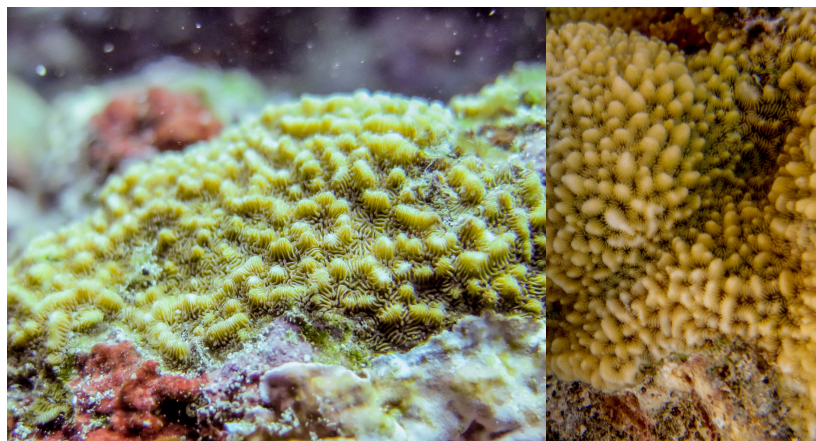
Porites panamensis

Colonies are lobed or form short branches. The surface is smooth to undulating.



Porites evermanni

Colonies are massive with a tendency to form columns. Tentacles are usually extended during the day.

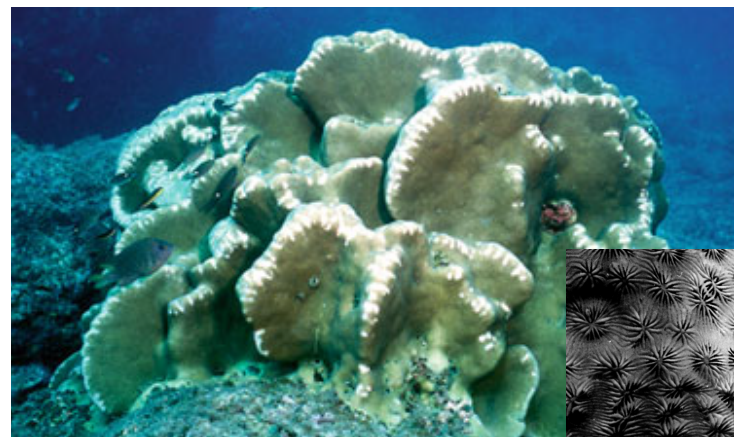


Pavona chiriquiensis



Pavona frondifera

Thin plates or contorted fronds with narrow bases and which divide irregularly. Corallites are aligned in irregular shallow valleys



Pavona clavus

Colonies are columnar, club-shaped or laminar. Corallites have thick walls and are well defined. Columellae are short or absent.



Pavona gigantea

Colonies are massive. Corallites have thick walls and are well defined. Columellae are well developed.

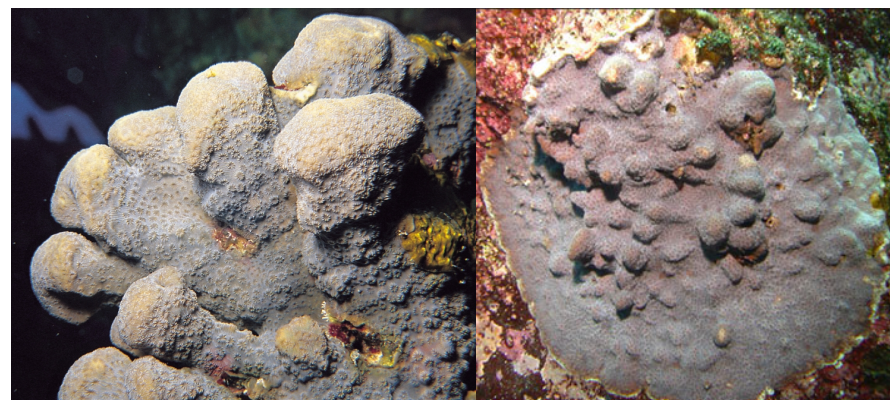
¹Maté JJ, Brandt M, Grassian B & Chiriboga A (2017) Field Guide to Select Eastern Pacific Corals and Associated Coral Reef Biota, P.W. Glynn et al. (eds.), Coral Reefs of the Eastern Tropical Pacific, Coral Reefs of the World 8
²Veron JEN, Stafford-Smith MG, Turak E, & DeVantier L.M. (2016). Corals of the World. Accessed 24 Jan 2019, version 0.01. <http://www.coralsoftheworld.org/page/home/?version=0.01>

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Pavona maldivensis

Columnar growth-forms where exposed, plates where protected habitats. Corallites are circular, plocoid and usually of irregular sizes. Those near plate margins may be aligned in parallel rows.



Pavona varians

Massive, laminar or encrusting or a combination. Corallites in short irregular valleys, or aligned between ridges perpendicular to margins, or irregularly distributed



Leptoseris scabra

Encrusting, unifacial laminae sometimes contorted forming hollow columns or tubes. Corallite irregular and usually outwardly inclined.



Gardineroseris planulata

Massive to encrusting, sometimes with laminar margins. Corallites have poorly defined walls but are separated by acute ridges.



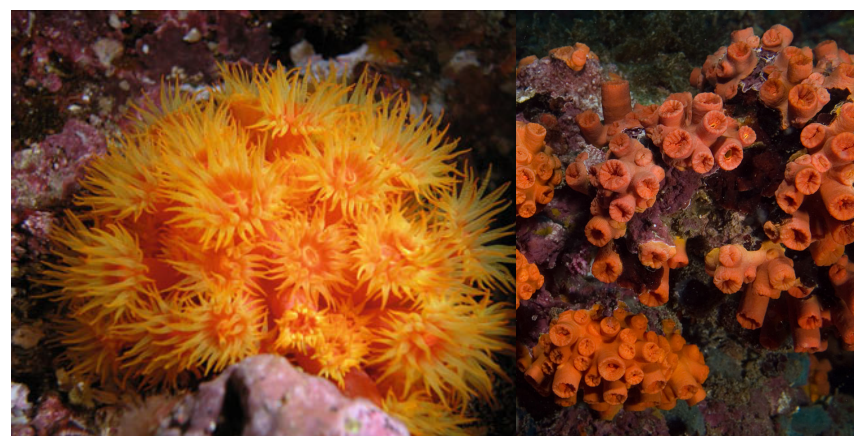
Psammocora profundacella

Submassive or laminar. Corallites are in short valleys. Walls are rounded although they may have a central ridge.



Psammocora stellata

Submassive or branching, with encrusting bases. Corallites have poorly defined walls.



Tubastraea coccinea

Coral without zooxanthellae



Tubastraea tagusensis

Coral without zooxanthellae

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Trapezia corallina (red coral crab)
Pocillopora sp. associate, East Pacific endemic



Trapezia formosa
Pocillopora sp. associate, East Pacific endemic



Trapezia digitalis (brown coral crab)
Pocillopora sp. associate



Trapezia bidentata (rusty coral crab)
Pocillopora sp. associate



Harpiliopsis depressa
Pocillopora sp. associate



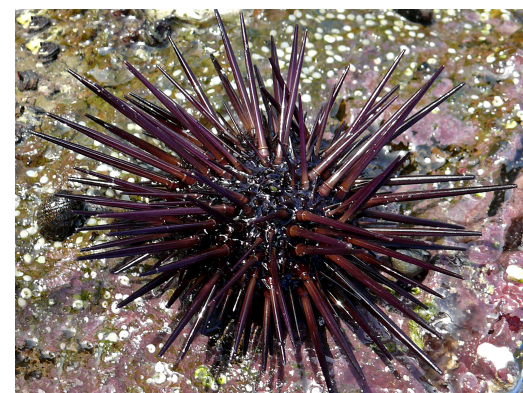
Alpheus lottini
Pocillopora sp. associate



Diadema mexicanum



Eucidaris thouarsii



Echinometra vanbrunti



Lytechinus semituberculatus



Acanthaster planci



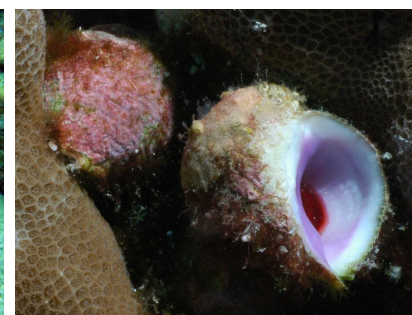
Tripneustes depressus



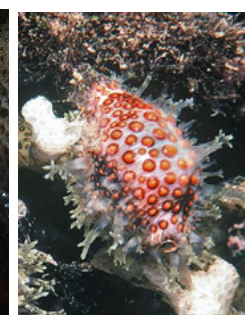
Hymenocera picta



Pentaceraster cumingi



Coralliophila violacea



Jenneria pustulata

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