Coral ID Guide

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Characteristics of Coral Species

Branching Corals

Species.Name	Acropora.cervicornis	Acropora.palmata	Acropora.prolifera	Cladocora.arbuscula	Eusmilia.fastigia			Madracis.decactis	Oculina.		Porites.divaricata	Porites.furcata	Porites.porites
Colony Shape Corallite Size (mm)	Branching 0.8-1	Branching 0.5-0.8	Branching 0.8-1.0	Branching <6	Branching 80-130	Branching 1	3	Branching 1.3-1.9	Branchi 1.5-5	ng	Branching <1.6	Branching 1.6-1.8	Branching 1.8-2.0
Coralite Size (mm) Coralite wall thickness	0.8-1	0.0-0.8	0.8-1.0	<0	80-130	1		1.3-1.9	1.5-5		<1.6	1.0-1.8	1.8-2.0
Columellae size (mm)			-	1				-	-		-	-	-
Valley width (mm)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
No. of Centers per Se-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
ries	/	/	,	,	/	/		/	,		,	,	,
Septal Number	6	6	6	36	15-18/cm	10		10	-		12	12	12
Septal Cycle	1	1	1	-	2	2		-	-		1	1	1
Septal Teeth	-	-	-	-	None	-		-	-		-	-	-
Columella	Absent	Absent	Absent	Trabecular; discontinu	1- Trabecular; cont			Styliform (wel			Trabecular (weak); dis-	Trabecular; discontinu-	Trabecular; discontinu-
				ous		developed	l)	developed)	develope		continuous	ous	ous
Costae				-	Well-developed	Absent		Absent	Absent/	Reduced	-	-	-
Coenosteum	0.2-0.3mm	0.1-0.2mm	0.2-0.3mm	-	N/A	-		- 0.0	1.5		-	- 1.0	-
Branch diameter (cm)	1-3	5-25	0.5-2	-	-	-		2-3	< 1.5		<1	1-2	>2
Surface Colony Form	- Plocoid	- Plocoid	- Plocoid	- Phaceloid	- Phaceloid	- Plocoid		- Plocoid	- Plocoid		Subplocoid	Subplocoid	Subplocoid
Similar species	Acropora formosa (not		Acropora cervicorn		1 naccioid	1 locold		-		varicosa	Porites furcata, Porites	Porites divaricata.	Porites divaricata.
ommar species	in the Carribean/E. Pa-	neropora promera	Acropora palmata		-	-		_	Ocuma	varicosa	porites	Porites porites	Porites furcata
	cific), Acropora prolif-		Teropora pannata								portees	1 office portice	1 Office Turcus
	era												
Comments/Notes	Corallite: Distinctive	Corallite: No disti	nc- Corallites: Radi	ial Branches: Fine ridge	s Colony: Hemispl	herical Biology:	Primarily an	Colonies: Nodula	r Corallit	es: Have neat	Pali: 5-6 Branch: Of-	Branches: Thinner	Branches: Stout, irreg-
,	singular central axial	tive axial corall	te; corallites orient u	ip- running along th	e mounds Septa: V	Widely azooxantl	hellae species	(flattened and club	o- round	exsert walls	ten divide near tips	than P. porites but not	ular, and stubby with
	corallites with tubu-	irregular leng	th; wards in rows; <5m	m length; each endin	g spaced; primary	septa Septa: F	use with col-	shaped), laminar o	r Septa:	Slight alter-	-	as slender/branched as	blunt and often en-
	lar radial corallites:			se with a single corallite	exsert	umella		encrusting Coenos	- nation	of long and		P. divaricata; tightly	larged tips Pali: 5-6
	<5mm long	Branches: Singu						teum: Fine spicule				compacted Pali: 5-6	
		branches Colo						(sometimes form ridg					
		Largest among Acr		A.				between corallites					
		ora	palmata					Septa: Fuse with columella	1				
								corumena					
Species Name	Colony Shape	Corallite Size Cor	allite Wall Columellae	Septa Num- Sep	otal Cycle Septal	Columella	Costae	Coesnosteum	Branch	Colony	Similar Species	Comments/Notes	
- P	y		ckness size (mm)	ber	Teeth				diameter	Form			
		` '	` ′						(cm)				
1 Acropora cervicorni	s Branching	0.8-1 -	-	6 1	-	Absent	-	0.2-0.3mm	1-3	Plocoid	Acropora formosa (not in	Corallite: Distinctive size	igular central axial corallites
											the Carribean/E. Pacific),	with tubular radial cora	llites; <5mm long
											Acropora prolifera		
2 Acropora palmata	Branching	0.5-0.8	-	6 1	-	Absent	-	0.1 - 0.2 mm	5-25	Plocoid	Acropora prolifera		ve axial corallite; irregular
													n long Branches: Singular
0 4 116	D 11	0.04.0		6 1					0.5-2			branches Colony: Large	
3 Acropora prolifera	Branching	0.8-1.0	-	6 1	-	Absent	-	0.2 - 0.3 mm					lites orient upwards in rows
									0.0-2	Plocoid	Acropora cervicornis,		E / D:1
4 Cladocora arbuscula									0.0-2	Plocoid	Acropora cervicornis, Acropora palmata	<5mm long Branches:	
	Branching	<6	1	36		Trabacular			0.0-2			<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv	icornis and A. palmata
4 Ciadocora arbuscura	a Branching	<6 -	1	36 -	-	Trabecular;	-	-	-	Plocoid Phaceloid		<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges ru	icornis and A. palmata mning along the length; each
			1		- None	discontinuous	- Well-	- N/A	-	Phaceloid		<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges ru ending with a single cor	icornis and A. palmata mning along the length; each allite
5 Eusmilia fastigiata	a Branching Branching	<6 - 80-130 -	1		- None	discontinuous Trabecular;	- Well- developed	- N/A	-			<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges ru ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical m	icornis and A. palmata mning along the length; each allite
5 Eusmilia fastigiata	Branching		1 -		- None	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous	- Well- developed Absent	- N/A	-	Phaceloid Phaceloid		<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges ru ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert	icornis and A. palmata mning along the length; each allite nounds Septa: Widely spaced;
5 Eusmilia fastigiata			1 - -	15-18/cm 2	- None -	discontinuous Trabecular;	developed	- N/A -	-	Phaceloid		<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges ru ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert	mning along the length; each
5 Eusmilia fastigiata	Branching		1 - -	15-18/cm 2	None	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform	developed	- N/A -	-	Phaceloid Phaceloid		<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges ru ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a	icornis and A. palmata mning along the length; each allite nounds Septa: Widely spaced;
5 Eusmilia fastigiata 6 Madracis asperula	Branching		1 - -	15-18/cm 2	- None -	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform (well- developed) Styliform	developed	-	2-3	Phaceloid Phaceloid		<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges tr ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a Fuse with columella Colonies: Nodular (flatt	icornis and A. palmata mning along the length; each allite nounds Septa: Widely spaced; zooxanthellae species Septa: ened and club-shaped), lami-
5 Eusmilia fastigiata 6 Madracis asperula	Branching Branching	80-130 - 1 -	1 - -	15-18/cm 2 10 2	- None -	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform (well- developed) Styliform (well-	developed Absent	-	-	Phaceloid Phaceloid Plocoid		<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges tr ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a Fuse with columella Colonies: Nodular (flatt nar or encrusting Coem	icornis and A. palmata mning along the length; each allite iounds Septa: Widely spaced; zooxanthellae species Septa: ened and club-shaped), lami- steum: Fine spicules (some-
5 Eusmilia fastigiata 6 Madracis asperula	Branching Branching	80-130 - 1 -	1 - -	15-18/cm 2 10 2	- None -	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform (well- developed) Styliform	developed Absent	-	-	Phaceloid Phaceloid Plocoid		<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges ru ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a Fuse with columella Colonies: Nodular (flatt nar or encrusting Coen times form ridge between	icornis and A. palmata minig along the length; each allite iounds Septa: Widely spaced: zooxanthellae species Septa: ened and club-shaped), lami- steum: Fine spicules (some-
5 Eusmilia fastigiata 6 Madracis asperula 7 Madracis decactis	Branching Branching Branching	80-130 - 1 - 1.3-1.9 -	1 - -	15-18/cm 2 10 2	- None - -	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform (well- developed) Styliform (well- developed)	developed Absent Absent	-	2-3	Phaceloid Phaceloid Plocoid	Acropora palmata	<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges tr ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical in primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a Fuse with columella Colonies: Nodular (flatt nar or encrusting Coent times form ridge between columella	icornis and A. palmata mining along the length; each allite nounds Septa: Widely spaced; zooxanthellae species Septa: ened and club-shaped), lami- steum: Fine spicules (some- a corallites) Septa: Fuse with
5 Eusmilia fastigiata 6 Madracis asperula 7 Madracis decactis	Branching Branching	80-130 - 1 -	1	15-18/cm 2 10 2	- None - -	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform (well- developed) Styliform (well- developed) Trabecular	developed Absent	-	-	Phaceloid Phaceloid Plocoid		<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges ru ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a Fuse with columella Colonies: Nodular (flatt nar or encrusting Coen- times form ridge between columella Corallites: Have neat rot	icornis and A. palmata mming along the length; each allite iounds Septa: Widely spaced; zooxanthellae species Septa: ened and club-shaped), lami- isteum: Fine spicules (some- n corallites) Septa: Fuse with und exsert walls Septa: Slight
5 Eusmilia fastigiata 6 Madracis asperula 7 Madracis decactis	Branching Branching Branching	80-130 - 1 - 1.3-1.9 -	1	15-18/cm 2 10 2	None	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform (well- developed) Styliform (well- developed) Trabecular (well-	developed Absent Absent	-	2-3	Phaceloid Phaceloid Plocoid	Acropora palmata	<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges tr ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical in primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a Fuse with columella Colonies: Nodular (flatt nar or encrusting Coent times form ridge between columella	icornis and A. palmata mming along the length; each allite iounds Septa: Widely spaced; zooxanthellae species Septa: ened and club-shaped), lami- isteum: Fine spicules (some- n corallites) Septa: Fuse with und exsert walls Septa: Slight
5 Eusmilia fastigiata 6 Madracis asperula 7 Madracis decactis 8 Oculina diffusa	Branching Branching Branching	80-130 - 1 - 1.3-1.9 -	1	15-18/cm 2 10 2 10 -	- None - -	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform (well- developed) Styliform (well- developed) Trabecular (well- developed)	developed Absent Absent	-		Phaceloid Phaceloid Plocoid Plocoid	Acropora palmata Oculina varicosa	<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges tr ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a Fuse with columella Colonies: Nodular (flatt nar or encrusting Coen- times form ridge between columella Corallites: Have neat rot alternation of long and	icornis and A. palmata uning along the length; each allite tounds Septa: Widely spaced; zooxanthellae species Septa: ened and club-shaped), lamisteum: Fine spicules (some a corallites) Septa: Fuse with und exsert walls Septa: Slight short
5 Eusmilia fastigiata 6 Madracis asperula 7 Madracis decactis 8 Oculina diffusa	Branching Branching Branching	80-130 - 1 - 1.3-1.9 -	1	15-18/cm 2 10 2	- None - - -	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform (well- developed) Styliform (well- developed) Trabecular (well- developed) Trabecular	developed Absent Absent	-	2-3	Phaceloid Phaceloid Plocoid	Acropora palmata	<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges ru ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a Fuse with columella Colonies: Nodular (flatt nar or encrusting Coen- times form ridge between columella Corallites: Have neat rot	icornis and A. palmata uning along the length; each allite tounds Septa: Widely spaced; zooxanthellae species Septa: ened and club-shaped), lamisteum: Fine spicules (some a corallites) Septa: Fuse with und exsert walls Septa: Slight short
5 Eusmilia fastigiata 6 Madracis asperula 7 Madracis decactis 8 Oculina diffusa	Branching Branching Branching	80-130 - 1 - 1.3-1.9 -	1	15-18/cm 2 10 2 10 -	- None	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform (well- developed) Styliform (well- developed) Trabecular (well- developed) Trabecular (well- (well- developed) Trabecular (weak); dis-	developed Absent Absent	-		Phaceloid Phaceloid Plocoid Plocoid	Acropora palmata Oculina varicosa	<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges tr ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a Fuse with columella Colonies: Nodular (flatt nar or encrusting Coen- times form ridge between columella Corallites: Have neat rot alternation of long and	icornis and A. palmata uning along the length; each allite tounds Septa: Widely spaced; zooxanthellae species Septa: ened and club-shaped), lamisteum: Fine spicules (some a corallites) Septa: Fuse with und exsert walls Septa: Slight short
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5 Eusmilia fastigiata 6 Madracis asperula 7 Madracis decactis 8 Oculina diffusa	Branching Branching Branching	80-130 - 1 - 1.3-1.9 -	1	15-18/cm 2 10 2 10 -	- None	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform (well- developed) Styliform (well- developed) Trabecular (well- developed) Trabecular (well- developed) Trabecular Trabecular Trabecular Trabecular Trabecular Trabecular	developed Absent Absent	-		Phaceloid Phaceloid Plocoid Plocoid	Acropora palmata	<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges tr ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a Fuse with columella Colonies: Nodular (flatt nar or encrusting Goen times form ridge between columella Coralites: Have neat rot alternation of long and : Pali: 5-6 Branch: Often Branches: Thinner than	icornis and A. palmata mining along the length; each allite tounds Septa: Widely spaced; zooxanthellae species Septa: ened and club-shaped), lamisteum: Fine spicules (sometoral corallities) Septa: Fuse with und exsert walls Septa: Slight short divide near tips
5 Eusmilia fastigiata 6 Madracis asperula 7 Madracis decactis 8 Oculina diffusa 9 Porites divaricata	Branching Branching Branching Branching Branching	80-130 - 1 - 1.3-1.9 - 1.5-5 - <1.6 -	1 - - -	15-18/cm 2 10 2 10 12 1	- None	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform (well- developed) Styliform (well- developed) Trabecular (well- developed) Trabecular (weak); dis- continuous	developed Absent Absent	-	2-3 <1.5 <1	Phaceloid Phaceloid Plocoid Plocoid Plocoid Subplocoid	Acropora palmata	<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges tr ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a Fuse with columella Colonies: Nodular (flatt nar or encrusting Goen times form ridge between columella Coralites: Have neat rot alternation of long and : Pali: 5-6 Branch: Often Branches: Thinner than	icornis and A. palmata mming along the length; each allite iounds Septa: Widely spaced; zooxanthellae species Septa: ened and club-shaped), lami- isteum: Fine spicules (some- n corallites) Septa: Fuse with and exsert walls Septa: Slight short divide near tips
5 Eusmilia fastigiata 6 Madracis asperula 7 Madracis decactis 8 Oculina diffusa 9 Porites divaricata	Branching Branching Branching Branching Branching	80-130 - 1 - 1.3-1.9 - 1.5-5 - <1.6 -		15-18/cm 2 10 2 10 12 1	- None - - - -	discontinuous Trabecular; continuous Styliform (well- developed) Styliform (well- developed) Trabecular (well- developed) Trabecular (well- developed) Trabecular Trabecular Trabecular Trabecular Trabecular Trabecular	developed Absent Absent	-	2-3 <1.5 <1	Phaceloid Phaceloid Plocoid Plocoid Plocoid Subplocoid	Acropora palmata	<5mm long Branches: Hybrid between A. cerv Branches: Fine ridges tr ending with a single cor Colony: Hemispherical n primary septa exsert Biology: Primarily an a Fuse with columella Colonies: Nodular (flatt nar or encrusting Coent times form ridge between columella Corallites: Have neat rot alternation of long and 1. Pali: 5-6 Branch: Often Branches: Thinner that der/branched as P. divar 5-6	icornis and A. palmata mining along the length; each allite tounds Septa: Widely spaced; zooxanthellae species Septa: ened and club-shaped), lamisteum: Fine spicules (sometoral corallities) Septa: Fuse with und exsert walls Septa: Slight short divide near tips

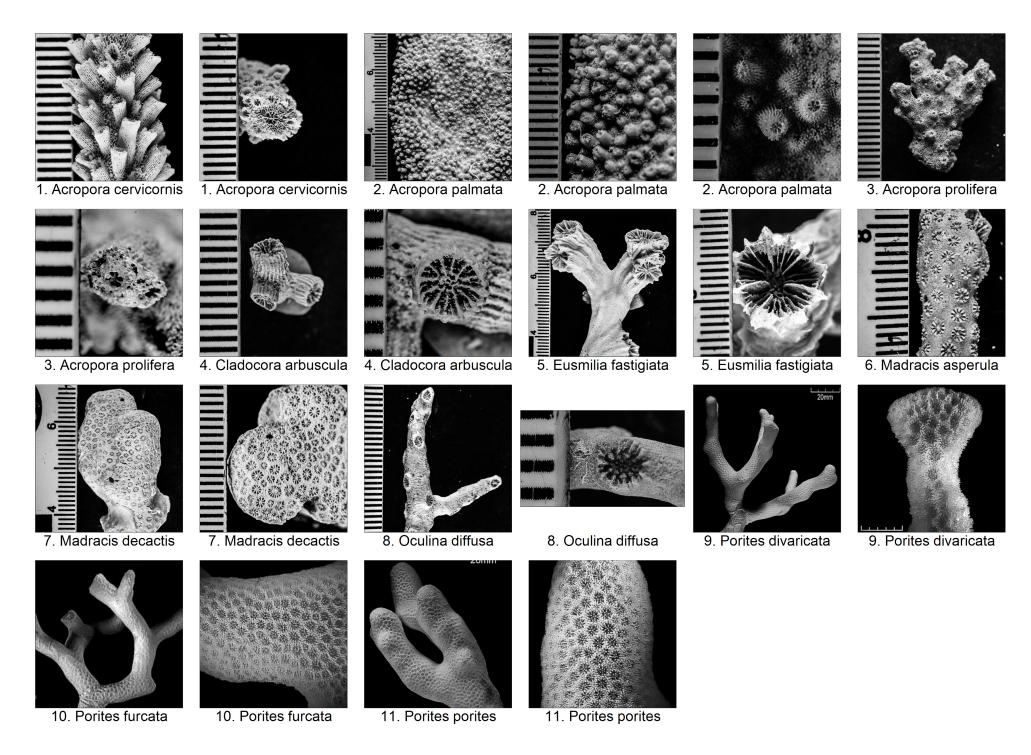


Figure 1: