



Corals

At Your Doorstep

CAPRICORN COAST - AUSTRALIA



The diverse reefs of the Port Curtis and Keppel Bay are home to more than 150 species of coral. Environmental conditions vary greatly between these reefs and each reef hosts a coral community that is specialised for its conditions. These inshore reefs and coral communities are of high ecological, economic and recreational importance and require our care.



INSHORE REEFS

Characteristics

- Temperature range: 19 to 29 °C
- High levels of sedimentation and turbidity
- Changes in salinity
- Low coral diversity - 11 coral taxa
- 150 coral species

Locations - Port Curtis

Rat Reef; Gatcombe Head, North and East Points, Pearl Ledge; Sable Chief and Seal Rocks.

Locations - Keppel Bay

Bald, Man & Wife, Barren Island; Great Middle and North Keppel.



Reef areas of Capricorn Coast where coral can be found.

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community.
Reef data courtesy of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.



OFFSHORE REEFS

Characteristics

- Temperature range: 18 to 29 °C
- Low levels of turbidity
- Little changes in salinity
- High coral diversity - 72% of the coral species found on the Great Barrier Reef.

Locations - Heron Island

Heron Island, One Tree Island, Wistari Reef, Masthead Reef, Polmaise, Sykes Reef, Polmaise Ree

CORALS HARD VERSUS SOFT



Hard corals - Characteristics

- Hard calcium carbonate skeleton
- Reef building
- Rigid structure
- Symbiotic relationship with zooxanthellae
- Each polyp has 6 tentacles or multiples of 6
- Lots of research



Soft corals - Characteristics

- No calcium carbonate skeleton
 - may appear soft or leathery
- Non reef building
- Soft structure that can move
- Only some have symbiotic zooxanthellae
- Each polyp has 8 tentacles or multiples of 8
- Not much research

CORALWATCH



CoralWatch integrates coral reef education and global reef monitoring. Using the Coral Health Chart volunteers from around the globe can monitor reefs and contribute to our global coral bleaching database. Anyone can get involved. Download a 'Do It Yourself Kit' and order a free Coral Health Chart at www.coralwatch.org today!

Common corals Capricorn Coast - Keppel Bay

HARD CORALS



Finger coral
Acropora sp.

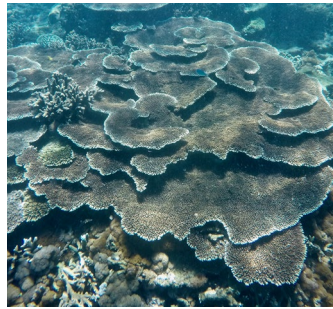
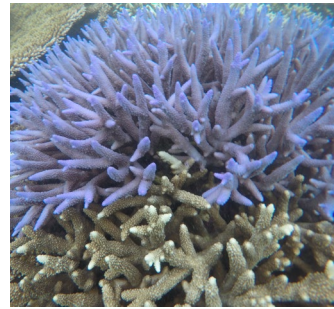


Plate coral
Acropora sp.



Staghorn coral
Acropora sp.



Boulder coral
Acanthastrea sp.

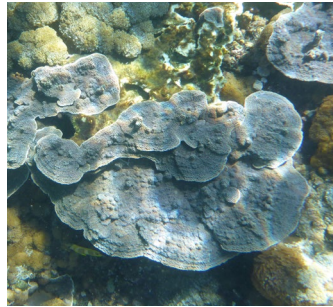


Plate coral
Montipora sp.



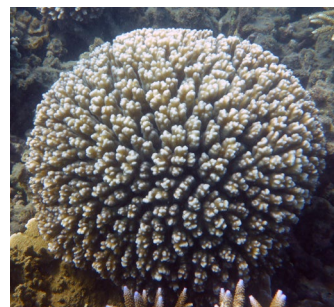
Goniastrea sp. in competition
with *Montipora* sp.



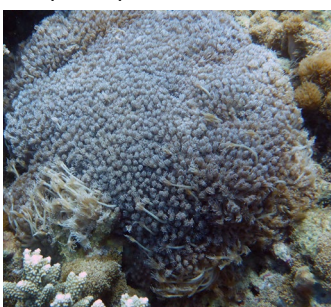
Fire coral
Millepora sp.



Brain coral
Favites sp.



Stem coral
Pocillopora sp.



Daisy coral
Goniopora sp.



Lobed or Open Brain coral
Lobophyllia sp.



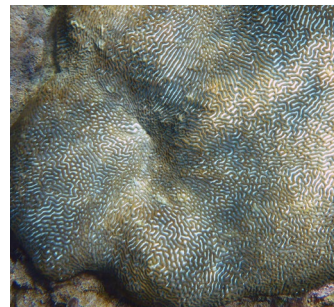
Boulder coral with parrotfish
bite marks, *Porites* sp.



Mushroom coral
Fungia sp.

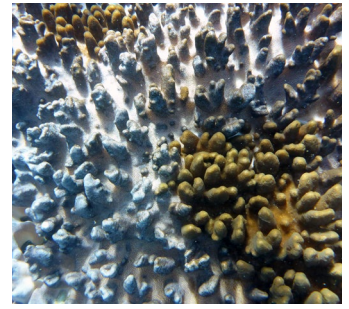


Boulder coral, *Montastrea* sp./
Phymastrea sp.

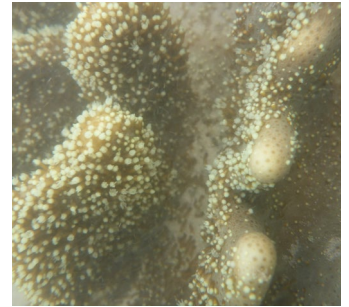


Meandroid brain coral
Platygyra sp.

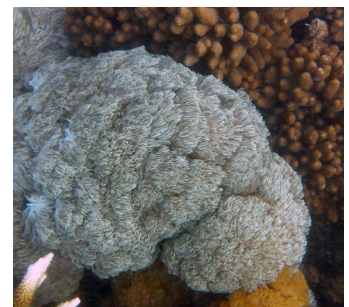
SOFT CORALS



Spotted soft coral
Sinularia sp.



Lobed leather coral
Lobophytum sp.



Pulse coral
Xenia sp.



Leather soft coral (polyps
retracted) *Sarcophyton* sp.



Leather soft coral
Sarcophyton sp.

© CoralWatch, June 2019. Photos: Lee Fisher, Karen Hofman, Diana Kleine, Andrew Gill, Ray Berkelmans & CoralWatch

Resources: <https://keppels.com.au>. Informative website with interactive maps and resources for the Keppel Region. Published by Dr Ali Jones.

CoralWatch
Queensland Brain Institute
The University of Queensland
St Lucia QLD 4072 Australia
phone +61 (0) 7 3365 3127
info@coralwatch.org
WWW.CORALWATCH.ORG

Supported by:



This project is supported by Fitzroy Basin Association Inc., through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.