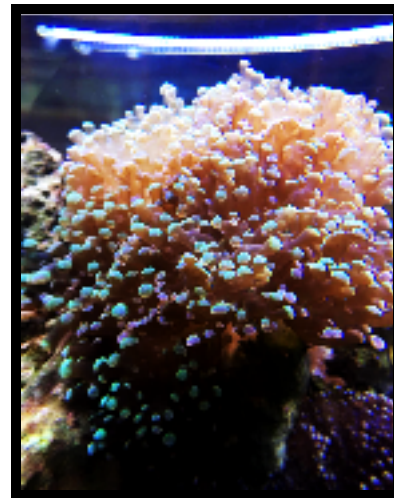


LCC CORALS

Poster and Images by Kaylee Wilkinson;
Wet Lab assistant at LCC



Pulsing Xenia (zay-nee-uh)

Xenia elongata & Xenia sp.

Common Names:

Red Sea Xenia, Pom Pom Coral, Bouquet Encrusting Coral

Description:

Originating from the Indo Pacific, this coral colony commonly "pulses" giving it the appearance of an animated bouquet of flowers.

Propagation:

Reproduces by splitting itself in two. Xenia is like the broomsticks in Disney's Fantasia movie.

Interesting Facts:

It is unknown as to why this coral pulses- it is assumed to help with gas exchange and capturing food particles adrift in the water column.

Encrusting Gorgonian

Briareum stechei

Common Names:

Green Encrusting Octosoft, Star Polyp

Description:

The species *Briareum stechei* forms a thick mat made of tissue with tan/blue/green polyps.

Propagation:

Very easily propagates both by hand and on its own. It encrusts nearly everything it touches, especially other Gorgonian corals.

Interesting Facts:

Tentacles (or polyps) can retract fully into their mat when disturbed.

Frog Spawn

Euphyllia divisa

Common Names:

Octopus Coral, Grap Coral, Zig-Zag Coral

Description:

Origins in the Red sea, Indo Pacific, Samoa, etc.

Propagation:

Sweeper tentacles clear the way for their production.

Interesting Facts:

Very territorial animals, sending out extremely long stinging sweeper tentacles to eliminate closeby corals, which can reach up to 10" (25cm) long.

Candy Cane

Caulastrea furcata

Common Names:

Trumpet coral, torch coral, candy cane coral, bullseye coral

Description:

Candy Cane Coral gets its common name from the alternating stripes on its polyps.

Propagation:

Can be reproduced by simply snapping off one of it's branches. A healthy, growing candy cane coral colony will create additional branches.

Interesting Facts:

This coral's feeder tentacles come out when the lights go off.



Plate Coral

Heliofungia actiniformis

Common Names:

Tongue Coral, Fungus Coral

Description:

A colony of attached polyps which produce a hard skeleton.

Propagation:

Can be "fragged" or, literally cut in half to make two colonies.

Interesting Facts:

Under stress, plate corals asexually reproduce very rapidly. This is known as "Polyp Bailout". It is still a mystery as to why they do this. This rapid reproduction defense is *not* the case with coral bleaching responses, which is becoming more of an epidemic around the world.

Frilly Sea Anemone

Plymanthus sp.

Common Names:

Aurora Anemone, Flat Anemone, Glass Bead Anemone

Description:

The strange tentacles of this coral appear to have brown beads, or almost thornlike bulges. A vibrant green color takes on the center of the anemone (aka the oral disk).

Propagation:

Anemones propagate themselves by splitting in half.

Interesting Facts:

The Frilly Sea Anemone, like most other corals are able to freely move about with their "foot".

Duncan Coral

Duncanopsammia axifuga

Common Names:

Duncan Whisker Coral, Aussie Corals, Daisy Corals

Description:

This shaggy tentacle monster has multiple polyp heads. The tentacles almost look like whiskers.

Propagation:

There is hardly any literature about the reproduction of this species. It would be a Great research project to study their self-propagation behaviors.

Interesting Facts:

The heads of this beast can retract fully into their corralities when disturbed.

Button Polyp

Protopalycha vestitus

Common Name:

Green Sea Matt, Zoanthis, Zoas, Palys

Description:

Small dark brown polyps with a bright green color towards the oral disk. Spoke-like striations on disks.

Propagation:

These cute little buttons form a thick mat as their colony grows larger.

Interesting Facts:

Button Polyps produce *palytoxins* and should always be handled with gloves!

LCC CORALS

Poster and Images by Kaylee Wilkinson;
Wet Lab assistant at LCC



Toadstool Leather

Sarcophyton galucom

Common Names:

Umbrella leather, Toadstool

Description:

The Toadstool coral has a mushroom looking cap called a capitulum.

Propagation:

Leathers will create small buds at the base of the coral to reproduce asexually.

Interesting Facts:

A few times a day and at night, the leather corals will retract all of their polyps, revealing the smooth surface of the coral's body.



Kenya Tree

Capnella imbricata

Common Names:

Carnation Coral, Cauliflower Soft Coral, Strawberry Soft Coral

Description:

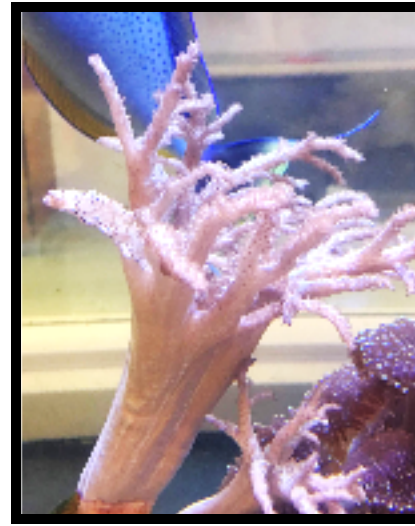
Kenya tree coral are some of the most beautiful coral. It has a thick trunk, like a tree, and has long feathery branches.

Propagation:

This Cauliflower coral will drop its branches to spread its colonies

Interesting Facts:

From time to time, the Kenya Tree coral folds over and retracts its feathery polyps. It is not well-known as to why they do this - Hence, a great research project.



Finger Leather

Nephtea SP

Common Names:

Paula Nephtea, Green Paula

Description:

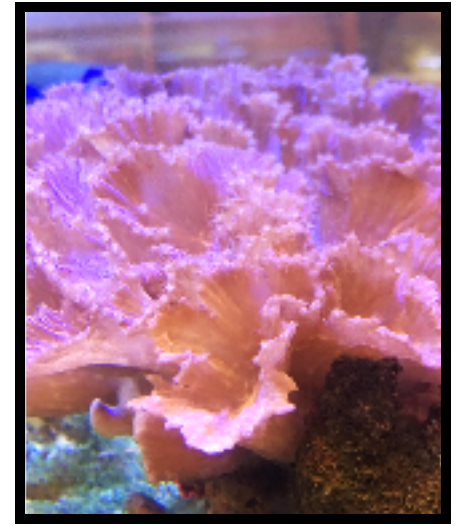
Appears to almost resemble a tree, with a thick trunk and long branches. Often its polyps give the coral a more fluffy appearance.

Propagation:

Reproduction takes place through budding, when a small baby coral emerges out of the coral's side or base.

Interesting Facts:

Though this coral appears thick like wood, it contains no calcified skeleton.



Cabbage Leather

Sinularia dura

Common Names:

Lobed Leather Coral, Flower Leather Coral

Description:

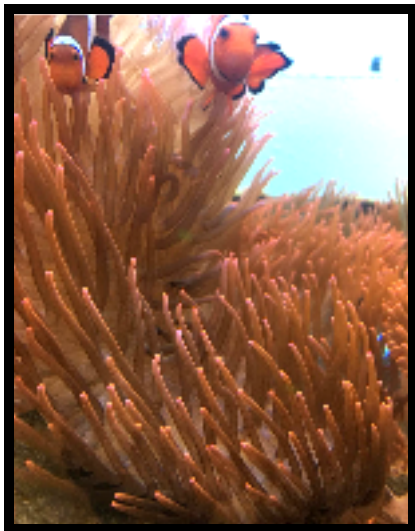
It's evident as to why this coral is named after cabbage, as it looks like thin crumpled up pieces of cabbage or paper.

Propagation:

Reproduces by dropping branches or fragmenting itself.

Interesting Facts:

Under higher flow, this coral has the ability to grow in a completely different form, taking on the shape of a gnarly mat.



Rose Bubble Tip

Entacmaea quadricolor

Common Names:

Rose Bubble Tip Anemone, or RBTA

Description:

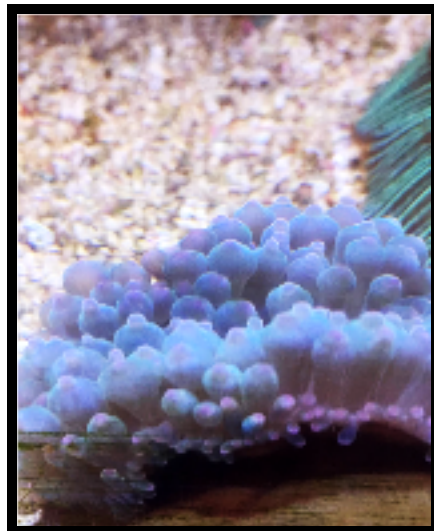
Anemones with red coloration on its tentacles. Like most corals, the color comes from a Zooxanthellae algae.

Propagation:

Very rapid reproduction can occur with this species. They will literally split themselves in two to asexually reproduce

Interesting Facts:

Moves slowly across surfaces with its pedal disk, or, "foot".



Blue Bubble Tip

Entacmaea quadricolor

Common Names:

Bulb Tip Anemone, Sea Anemone,

Description:

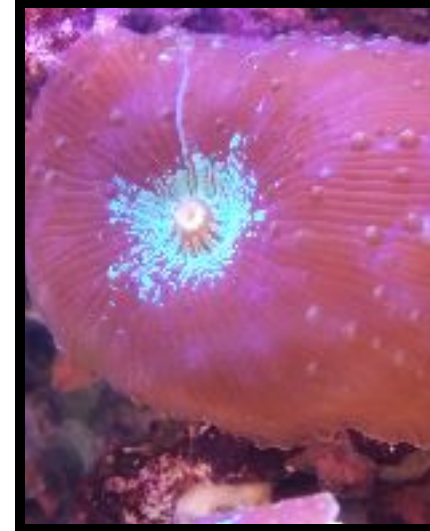
These anemones come in four main colors, and will host clownfish in a symbiotic relationship.

Propagation:

Bubble tips will split themselves in two and propagate very quickly.

Interesting Facts:

The bulbous tips generally inflate when sufficient light is placed above them in an aquarium.



Actinodiscus Mushroom

Actinodiscus spp.

Common Names:

Disc Anemones, Mushrooms

Description:

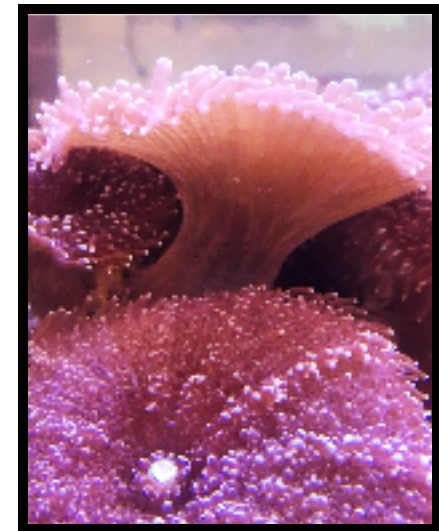
These corals get the name from their resemblance of mushrooms- they come with amazing color variation.

Propagation:

Mushrooms propagate very quickly, taking over large spaces when able.

Interesting Facts:

Some species of mushroom coral can change their surface texture through variations of light and nutrients in their surrounding habitat.



Ricordea Mushroom

Ricordea yuma

Common Names:

Florida False Corals, Mushroom Anemones, Ricordea

Description:

Random groupings of pimple-like bubbles that form along the coral's surface.

Propagation:

Most mushroom corals can be cut like pieces of a pie and each piece will regrow.

Interesting Facts:

These corals are sessile creatures with no hard skeletons. Neither the tentacles, nor the body can retract.