Revision and catalogue of worldwide staghorn corals *Acropora* and *Isopora* (Scleractinia: Acroporidae) in the Museum of Tropical Queensland

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Revision and Catalogue of *Acropora* and *Isopora*

FIG. 95. *Acropora spicifera*, G63130, Kushimoto, Japan, 2009 (photo: P. Muir). Map of documented distribution: blue squares = MTQ specimens; pink squares = literature records; orange diamonds = type localities (where given), including primary synonyms.
**Acropora squarrosa** (Ehrenberg, 1834)  
(Fig. 96)


**Type locality.** Red Sea (holotype MNB).

**MTQ Holdings. Red Sea:** G54477, G55785 HOLOTYPE of *A. maryae*; G57787 Egypt; G54843–45, G55186, G55269, G57048, G58876, G58877 Saudi Arabia.

**Species group:** loripes.

**Description.** Colony outline: determinate, predominantly corymbose. *Branches*: tertiary branching order absent; length: 25–50 mm; diameter: 5.0–9.9 mm, 50/50 axial/radial, terete; radial crowding: not touching; axial/radial ratio: <1:10. *Axial corallites*: two synapticular rings; not porous; outer diameter 2.2–4.2 mm; inner diameter 0.4–0.8 mm; primary septa to 2/3 R.

**Radial corallites**: medium; two synapticular rings; one size or graded; inner wall developed; shape: appressed tubular; openings: oval-rounded; primary septa to ¼ R. *Coenosteum*: same on and between radials: dense spinules; spinule shape: elaborate.

**Taxonomic note.** *Acropora maryae* is placed in synonymy with *A. squarrosa* because the holotype G55785 falls within the range of variation of characters of specimens in this collection, which have been compared with the Ehrenberg type of *A. squarrosa*.

FIG. 96. Acropora squarrosa, Red Sea (photo: E. Turak). Map of documented distribution: blue squares = MTQ specimens; pink squares = literature records; orange diamonds = type localities (where given), including primary synonyms.
Acropora stoddarti Pillai & Scheer, 1976
(Fig. 97)


Type locality. Addu Atoll, Maldives (holotype HSMD).


Species group: divaricata.

Description. Colony outline: determinate, predominantly arborescent table. Branches: tertiary branching order absent; length: 25–50 mm; diameter: 10.0–19.9 mm, 50/50 axial/radial; tapering; radial crowding: some touching; axial/radial ratio: >1:10. Axial corallites: three synapticular rings; not porous; outer diameter 1.9–2.5 mm; inner diameter 0.7–1.3 mm; primary septa to ½ R. Radial corallites: medium; three synapticular rings; one size or graded; inner wall developed; shape: nariform; round openings; primary septa to 1/3 R. Coenosteum: same on and between radials: reticulate to reticulocostate, spinule shape: single point or forked.

Taxonomic note. These specimens at the type locality (Gan I. lagoon, Addu Atoll, Maldives). We have taken A. stoddarti out of the synonymy with A. divaricata (as given in Wallace 1999): however its precise identity remains elusive. While all specimens share similarities with A. divaricata, there is a high degree of variability, amongst the three specimens at hand, in the width of branches, which range from broad and strap-like to slender and tapering. The colony illustrated bears the greatest similarity to syntype X2:31-24 of Pillai and Scheer (1976).

Further literature: Veron (2000) (some of the illustrated specimens may not be A. stoddarti).
Acropora striata (Verrill, 1866)
(Fig. 98)

Madrepora striata Verrill, 1866: 24; 1901: 251, pl. 36
figs 4–4a, pl. 36A figs 4–4a, pl. 36F fig. 7.

Type locality. Ousima Japan (syntype NMNH-SI).


Species group: selago.

Description. Colony outline: indeterminate, predominantly hispidose. Branches: tertiary branching order present; length: 25–50 mm; diameter: 5.0–9.9 mm, radial-dominated, terete; radial crowding: most touching; axial/radial ratio: >1:10. Axial corallites: two synapticular rings; porous; outer diameter 1.6–2.4 mm; inner diameter 0.8–1.1 mm; primary septa to ½ R. Radial corallites: medium; two synapticular rings; one size or graded; inner wall developed; shape: dimidiate/lipped; openings: cochleariform; primary septa to 1/3 R. Coenosteum: different on and between radials: between radials: reticulate, on radials: costate; spinule shape: single point.

**Acropora subglabra** (Brook, 1891)
(Fig. 99)

*Madrepora subglabra* Brook, 1891: 470; 1893: 186, pl. 29 fig. C.


**Type locality.** South Seas (lectotype NHM).

**MTQ Holdings. Maldives:** G52012, G59747; **Thailand:** G55932–33, G56002–03, G56438, G63007; **Malaysia:** G41127, G53886 Sabah; **Indonesia:** G50371–72, G59067 Bali; G51044–48 Nusa Tenggara; G51786 Tukangbesi Islands; G51049–51 Taka’bonerate; G50511 Flores; G50363–70, G51052–61, G59058, G59063, G59065–66 Kalimantan; G50355–56 Semau; G35512, G47722–27, G50353–54, G50360–62, G51645–47, G55449–51, G58793, G59387 Sulawesi; G51648–65, G52425–26, G63155–56 Halmahera; G47713–21, G58897 Banda Sea; G50357–59, G50512 West Timor; **Australia:** G41147, G41162 North; G29333, G41147, G41162 West; G29334–51, G31162–63, G56922, G57015–17 Great Barrier Reef; G31161 Coral Sea; **Palau:** G56846–48, G56855, G56879, G56900; **Papua New Guinea:** G35831, G35195–04, G45551–54, G45660–62, G57121–24, G59116; **Micronesia:** G59642 Pohnpei; **Solomon Is.:** G57917–18, G58589; **New Caledonia:** G40878, G40885, G40891, G40893–94, G61199; **Fiji:** G40924, G40940.

**Species group:** *echinata*.

**Description.** **Colony outline:** indeterminate, predominantly hispidose. **Branches:** tertiary branching order present; length: 25–50 mm; diameter: 2.5–4.9 mm, 50/50 axial/radial, terete; radial crowding: not touching; axial/radial ratio: <1:10. **Axial corallites:** two synapticular rings; porous; outer diameter 0.8–1.5 mm; inner diameter 0.3–0.8 mm; primary septa to 2/3 R. **Radial corallites:** medium; two synapticular rings; one size or graded; inner wall developed; shape: appressed tubular; openings: oval-rounded; primary septa to 2/3 R. **Coenosteum:** same on and between radials: costate; spinule shape: elaborate.

Acropora subulata (Dana, 1846)
(Fig. 100)

Madrepora subulata Dana, 1846: 448, pl. 32 fig. 3.
Madrepora frondosa Brook, 1893: 114, pl. 34 fig. E.

Description. Colony outline: determinate, predominantly corymbose. Branches: tertiary branching order absent; length: 50–100 mm; diameter: 2.5–4.9 mm, 50/50 axial/radial, terete; radial crowding: some touching; axial/radial ratio: >1:10. Axial corallites: two synapticular rings; porous; outer diameter 1.2–1.9 mm; inner diameter 0.8–1.2 mm; primary septa to ¾ R. Radial corallites: small; two synapticular rings; one size or graded; inner wall not developed; shape: dimidiate/lipped; openings: elongate lip; primary septa to 1/3 R. Coenosteum: different on and between radials: between radials: reticulate; on radials: reticulo-costate; spinule shape: single point.

Taxonomic note. Acropora lamarcki Veron, 2000 is placed in synonymy with A. subulata following examination of specimens at MTQ that have been compared with the A. subulata type, i.e. G54756 from Yemen, G46530 from Taiwan and G56155 from Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands.

Of Acropora lamarcki, Veron (2000, 2002) states: ‘This is a new name for what may have been Acropora corymbosa (Lamarck, 1816).’ If this were true, then A. corymbosa would have to be the senior available name for A. lamarcki, and thus also the senior name for A. subulata (Dana, 1846) under the present subjective synonymy. However, A. corymbosa is more frequently linked with A. cytherea Dana, 1846 (Wallace 1978: 288). As a specimen thought to be the type of A. corymbosa has been sighted in the collection of the MNHN by both Brook (1893) and Wells (cited in Wallace 1978), it seems advisable, at this time, to exercise caution in resurrecting Acropora corymbosa as the available name of either of the aforementioned species without a thorough attempt to locate Lamarck’s type specimen and be sure of its proper identity.

FIG. 100. Acropora subulata, G63262, Mayotte, East Indian Ocean, 2010 (photo: P. Muir). Map of documented distribution: blue squares = MTQ specimens; pink squares = literature records; orange diamonds = type localities (where given), including primary synonyms.
Acropora suharsonoi Wallace, 1994
(Fig. 101)

Type locality. Gilli Trawangan, Lombok, Indonesia.
MTQ Holdings. HOLOTYPE G47134, PARATYPES G47135, G47136 Indonesia; Indonesia: G48853–54, G51303, G51304 Bali; G50527 Flores.
Species group: loripes.
Description. Colony outline: indeterminate, predominantly plate. Branches: tertiary branching order absent; length: <25 mm; diameter: 2.5–4.9 mm, 50/50 axial/radial, terete; radial crowding: not touching; axial/radial ratio: <1:10. Axial corallites: two synapticular rings; not porous; outer diameter 1.6–2.2 mm; inner diameter 0.6–0.8 mm; primary septa to 1 R. Radial corallites: medium; two synapticular rings; one size or graded; inner wall developed; shape: appressed tubular; openings: oval-rounded; primary septa to 2/3 R. Coenosteum: same on and between radials: dense spinules; spinule shape: blunt irregular.
FIG. 101. Acropora suharsoni, Indonesia (photo: C. Wallace). Map of documented distribution: blue squares = MTQ specimens; pink squares = literature records; orange diamonds = type localities (where given), including primary synonyms.
Acropora sukarnoi Wallace, 1997
(Fig. 102)

Acropora sukarnoi Wallace, 1997: 30, fig. 3.
Type locality. Lombongan Bay, SE Bali, Indonesia. 
MTQ Holdings. **HOLOTYPE** G48832, **PARATYPES** G49284 Sumatra, G48827–31, G59036 Bali, G48493–502, G48559, G48833, G49285–86, G50103, G50528 Alor, Indonesia; **Sri Lanka**: G56352–55; **Thailand**: G56127; **Indonesia**: G49283, Sumatra; G50903 Nusa Tenggara; G59073 Flores; G63340 Sulawesi; **Australia**: G41150 Timor Sea.
Species group: robusta.

Description. Colony outline: determinate, predominantly table. Branches: tertiary branching order absent; length: 25–50 mm; diameter: >19.9 mm, axial-dominated, tapering; radial crowding: some touching; axial/radial ratio: >1:10. Axial corallites: two synapticular rings; porous; outer diameter 2.3–3.0 mm; inner diameter 0.7–1.5 mm; primary septa to 2/3 R. Radial corallites: large; two synapticular rings; two sizes; inner wall developed; shape: tubular; openings: dimidiate; primary septa to 2/3 R. Coenosteum: different on and between radials: between radials: reticulate, on radials: costate; spinule shape: single point.

FIG. 102. Acropora sukarnoi, G50103 Alor Islands, Indonesia, 1994 (photo: C. Wallace). Map of documented distribution: blue squares = MTQ specimens; pink squares = literature records; orange diamonds = type localities (where given), including primary synonyms.
Acropora tanegashimensis Veron, 1990
(Fig. 103)

Type locality. Sumiyoshi, Tanegashima, Japan.
MTQ Holdings. HOLOTYPE G32477; Japan: G62308, G62311–12, G62315, G62321–22, G62349, G62346–47.
Species group: hyacinthus.
Description. Colony outline: determinate, predominantly table. Branches: tertiary branching order absent; length: 25–50 mm; diameter: 5.0–9.9 mm, radial-dominated, terete; radial crowding: most touching; axial/radial ratio: >1:10. Axial corallites: two synapticular rings; porous; outer diameter 1.1–1.3 mm; inner diameter 0.6–0.8 mm; primary septa to 1/3 R. Radial corallites: medium; two synapticular rings; one size or graded; inner wall not developed; shape: dimidiate/lipped; openings: oval-rounded; primary septa to ¾ R. Coenosteum: different on and between radials: between radials: reticulate, on radials: costate; spinule shape: single point.
**Acropora tenella** (Brook, 1892)
(Fig. 104)

*Madrepora* *tenella* Brook, 1892: 464; 1893: 193, pl. 29 fig. E

**Type locality.** Macclesfield Bank, South China Sea (lectotype NHM).

**MTQ Holdings. Indonesia:** G56515, G59383 Sulawesi; G60744, G61226–27, G61254, G57096–97, G57107, G57111 Irian Jaya; **Palau:** G56875, G56915; **Papua New Guinea:** G39798, G53257, G61427; **Micronesia:** G62448–58, G62584–85 Pohnpei.

**Species group:** *elegans*.

**Description.** **Colony outline:** determinate, predominantly plate. **Branches:** tertiary branching order absent; length: 25–50 mm; diameter: <2.5 mm, 50/50 axial/radial, terete; radial crowding: not touching; axial/radial ratio: <1:10. **Axial corallites:** two synapical rings; not porous; outer diameter 1.4–1.6 mm; inner diameter 0.5–0.8 mm; primary septa to ½ R. **Radial corallites:** small; two synapical rings; one size or graded; inner wall developed; shape: tubular; openings: oval-rounded; primary septa absent. **Coenosteum:** same on and between radials: dense spinules; spinule shape: elaborate.