

Acropora Oken, 1815 p. 66

Carden Wallace

Edited by: Ann Budd

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Living colony of type species *Acropora muricata*.
Seychelles

Remarks: ICZN approved validation of genus name, Opinion 674, 1963 See Boschma, H. 1961. *Acropora* Oken, 1815 (Anthozoa, Madreporaria): proposed validation under the plenary powers. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 18: 334–335. China, W. E. 1963 Opinion 674 *Acropora* Oken, 1815 (Anthozoa, Madreporaria) validated under the plenary powers. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 20: 319-330.

Classification

Family: Acroporidae Verrill, 1902

Contains

Conocyathus Brook, 1893 p. 160

Type Species

Millepora muricata Linnaeus, 1758 p. 792 by ICZN Decision in Verrill, 1902.

Neotype: MTQ G49167 (Dry Preserved: Verified).

Type Locality: Banda Sea, Gunung Api I., Banda Is, Indonesia 04° 31'S 129° 52'E

Remarks: ICZN approved validation of type species, Opinion 674, 1963 (Boschma, 1961; China, 1963). Linnaeus gave the type locality as “in Pelagio Asiatico” (Asian Ocean). Although Linnaeus’ description clearly had many influences, Gregory (1900) considered that the strongest came from the illustrated work of Rumphius (1750) from the region of Ambon, Indonesia. The designated neotype was collected close to Ambon and selected to show close resemblance to a Rumphius illustration cited by Linnaeus. The junior synonym *Acropora formosa* (Dana, 1846) was in common use until the identity of the type species was stabilized by this designation. See Wallace (1999 pp 2-6) for nomenclatural and taxonomic history.

Diagnosis

Acroporidae which are ramose, rarely encrusting; branching mode axial, each branch having a single axial or leading corallite larger than the numerous radial corallites budded from it; radial corallites variously differentiated in shape and size, up to twelve spinose septa; theca and

coenosteum light, reticulate, spinose, costate or pseudocostate; columella and dissepiments absent.

Description

A variety of colony shapes occur, as growth may be determinate, leading to more or less symmetrical shape and obvious edge zone, or indeterminate, leading to unrestricted growth (Wallace 1999 p. 50-51). Other distinguishing characteristics include the relative contribution of axial and radial corallites to branch width, shape of radial corallites, whether or not radial corallites are dimorphic, shape and arrangement of coenosteal spines. (Figure 4). *Montipora* does not have and *Astreopora*

Comparisons

Axial corallites are also seen in some species of *Isopora*, but with supplementary or multiple axials, and in one species of *Astreopora*. *Acropora* and *Isopora* differ in gametic morphology, ova and spermaries being born within mesenterial filaments in *Acropora* and on stalks in *Isopora*, and also in reproductive mode, *Acropora* being a spawner versus *Isopora* a brooder oviparous versus viviparous). *Montipora* corallites do not have a theca and *Astreopora* does not typically have differentiated axial and radial corallites. *Anacropora* and *Dendracis* both have branching colony form, but without an axial corallite or, in the case of *Anacropora*, thecae.

Remarks

Monographed Brook 1893, Veron and Wallace 1984, Wallace 1999. Valid extant species number between about 120 and 140 (Wallace 1999; Veron 2000); valid fossil species approx. 20-30 (Michellotti 1838, Duncan 1866, Oppenheim 1901, Alvarez Perez 1987, Wallace 2008). Active research will lead to new species descriptions in both living and fossil records. This genus becomes extremely diverse in the Indo-Pacific but not in the Western Atlantic during the Late Cenozoic. See Wallace (1999) for a comprehensive treatment of the genus and included species

Distribution

Central Europe, Eastern Europe, North Africa; Late Cretaceous - Oligocene
Australasia; Pliocene - Pleistocene
Indian Ocean; Recent
Western Pacific; Recent
Central Pacific; Recent
Eastern Pacific; Recent

Contributed Images



Taxon/Term Name: Acropora

Name of Object: Acropora muricata

Caption: Living colony of type species Acropora muricata. Seychelles

Rank: 1

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Locality: Seychelles
