Simplified key to coral genera in the wildlife trade (continued)

	Go To:
40. colonies with foliaceous, plate-like or branching growth form with projections or whorls; corallites lack distinct walls or multiple corallites share the same wall	41
41. a. surface of coenosteum has small pits	*Oxypora*
b. coenosteum lacks small pits	42
c. surface of coenosteum covered with small bumps	43
42. a. corallites separate, inclined and point toward colony margin	*Mycedium*
b. corallites aligned in valleys that radiate to margin; valleys divide; may have concentric growth lines	*Merulina*
c. corallites are small, pore-like; colony has small projections on surface giving it a coarse appearance ..... (page 58-59)	*Montipora*
43. Colony is branching, foliaceous, plating or crustose	44

Oxypora (1999: 211 in trade, most live)

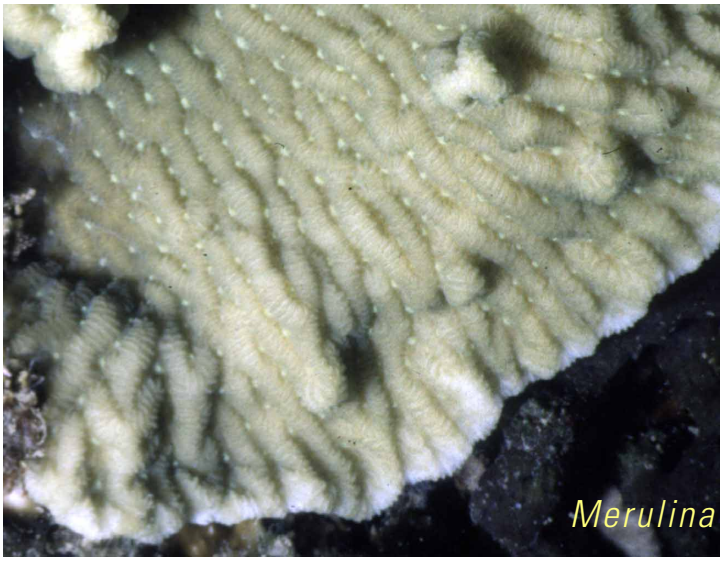
- "Ragged Chalice Coral" colonies are laminar or foliaceous in morphology, and have delicate, encrusting or sheet-like blades with a spiral arrangement; live colonies may have red or orange polyps and a pale green coenosteum, or they may be pale brown, cream with brown, green, pink or red centers
- corallites are round, oval or irregular, and protrude slightly above the coenosteum, but walls between corallites are poorly defined
- coenosteum has small slits or pits at the insertion points of new septa; septa are few but septo-costae radiate out to the margin of the plate and may be smooth-edged or spiny.
- may be confused with *Echinopora*, *Echinophyllia* and *Mycedium*
  Mycedium: coenosteum does not have pits; corallites are nose-shaped (point out and down)
  Echinophyllia: coenosteum with pits; corallites have prominent, numerous septa
  Echinopora: coenosteum is granulated; septa are exsert

Merulina (1999: over 5,000 pieces in trade, 75% live)

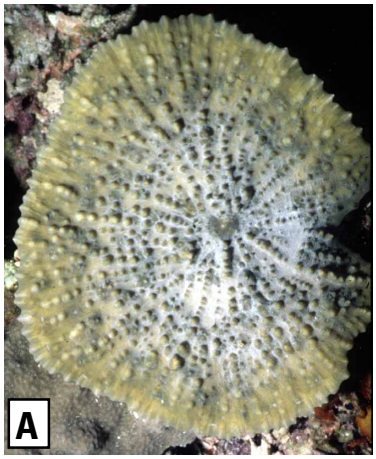
- "Cabbage Coral" colonies have an encrusting to sub-massive base with thickened columns, knobs or sub-ramose branches projecting from the base; colonies can be 5-10 m diameter
- the surface of the branches have valleys, approximately 5 mm wide, that radiate from the colony center to the margins; valleys are straight and forked
- living colonies have a ruffled appearance, pink paste-colored valleys and pale yellow walls

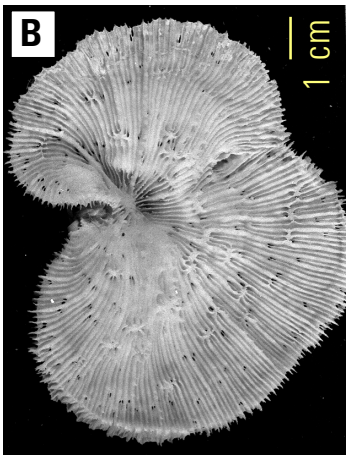
Mycedium (1999: 572 pieces, all live)

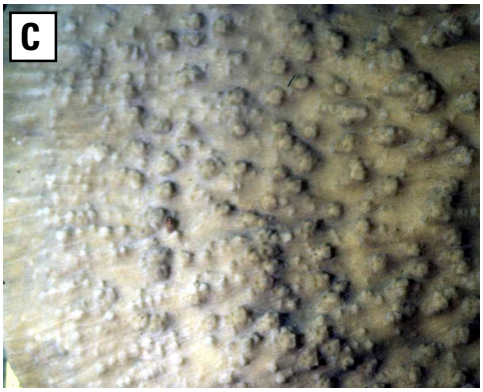
- "Elephant Nose Coral or Peacock Coral" forms flattened or contorted plates, with a laminar, foliaceous or encrusting morphology
- prominent corallites, tubular in shape, raised off the skeleton and pointed towards the margin of the colony
- skeletons do not have a pitted coenosteum as seen in *Oxypora*

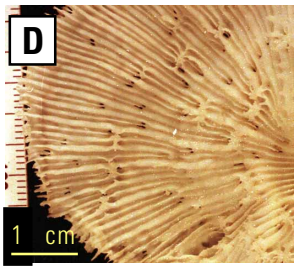

Merulina

Oxypora
- common name: Scroll Coral; Chalice Coral (3 species)
- colonies laminar or foliaceous; may form thin plates that spiral outward and face upward



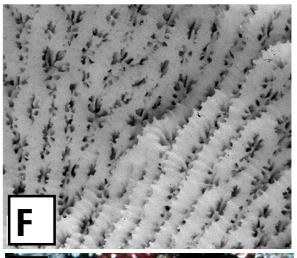


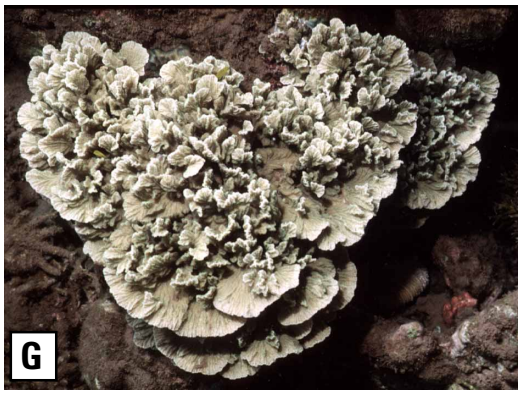


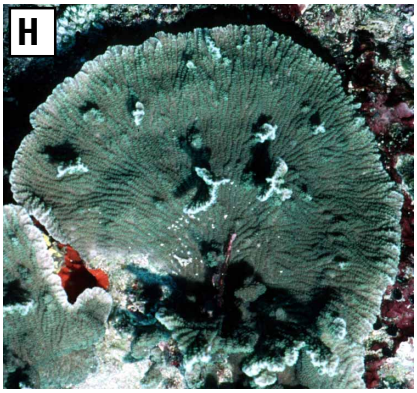


A) surface appears bumpy and pitted
B) septo-costae form ribs that radiate to colony margin
C-D) corallites small

Merulina
- common name: Ruffled Coral; Cabbage Coral (3 species)
- colonies laminar or foliaceous; may form small upright branches

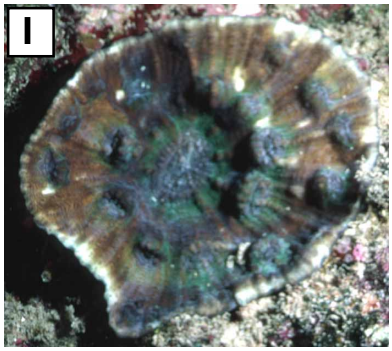






F) corallites submeandroid; confined to valleys; valleys short, straight
G) valleys radiate out to margin
F) valleys may divide
H) may have concentric growth lines

Mycedium
2 species
- common name: Elephant Nose Coral
- colonies laminar or foliaceous



I-J) corallites angled out toward margin
J) large ribs extend from center corallite to colony margin