

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

	<b>Go to:</b>
38. a. colonies laminar, sheet-like or plating .....	39
b. colonies laminar with leaf-like or folded projections .....	40
39. Colonies without distinct wall and septa between calices, but have septa-like ridges (septo-costae) radiating out from polyp mouth (colony thamnasteroid):	
a. calices on both sides of plate or leaf .....	<i>Pavona</i>
b. septo-costae thin, curved and > 1 cm .....	<i>Leptoseris</i>
c. plate-like to branching, may have distinct whorls; series of concentric ridges parallel with the margins .....	<i>Pachyseris</i>
d. foliaceous, plating or massive coral with thick, highly contorted fronds; corallites are circular and plocoid .....	<i>Turbinaria</i>

### *Turbinaria* (1999: 26,738 pieces in trade, most live)

- “Cup Corals” forms large colonies that are massive, laminar to cup-like, or foliaceous with highly contorted fronds; live colonies are grey, yellow or yellow-brown
- corallites are round and immersed, with tubular walls
- corallite walls and coenosteum is porous
- septa are neat, regular and short; columella is broad and spongy
- polyps are brown or yellow-brown and may be expanded in the day

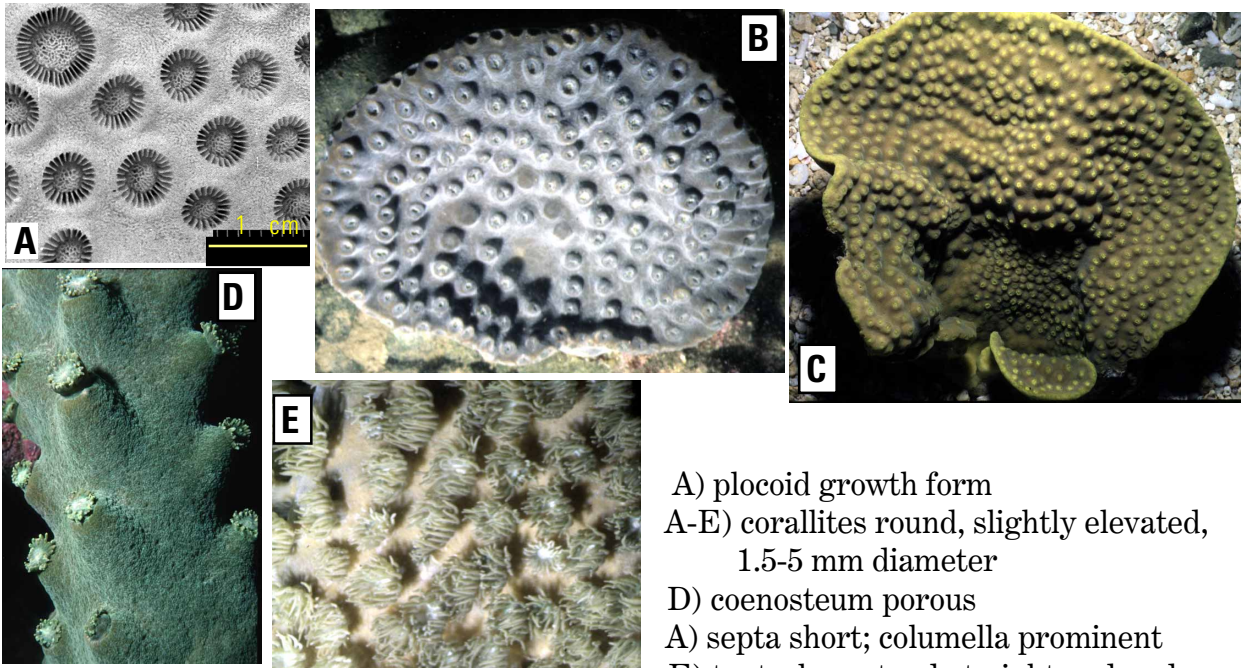
### *Pachyseris* (1999: 1,711 pieces in trade, over 1,350 live)

- “Elephant-Skin Coral” forms irregular sheets, crusts or thick, upright folded plates; vertical plates have corallites on both sides; live colonies are pale beige
- corallites aligned in valleys; corallites < 1 mm diameter; adjacent valleys share the same wall
- colonies have well-developed parallel ridges that run circumferentially around the plate
- septo-costae run perpendicular to the direction of the valleys and ridges; septa are fine, and tightly compacte

# Plating and Foliaceous Corals

## Family Dendrophylliidae

- Turbinaria* ■ common name: Cup Coral (12 species)  
■ colonies massive, foliaceous, plating or columnar



- A) plocoid growth form  
A-E) corallites round, slightly elevated,  
1.5-5 mm diameter  
D) coenosteum porous  
A) septa short; columella prominent  
E) tentacles extend at night and under  
low light in day

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## Family Agariciidae

- Pachyseris* ■ common name: Elephant Skin Coral (4 species)  
■ colonies laminar and unifacial,  
or foliaceous and bifacial - (polyps on both sides)



- G) surface has concentric ridges  
H) ridges parallel to colony margin  
I) corallite centers small, on ridges  
I) septa fine, tightly compacted  
H) colonies meandroid

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39. Colonies without distinct wall and septa between calices, but have septa-like ridges (septo-costae) radiating out from polyp mouth (colony thamnasteroid):	
a. calices on both sides of plate or leaf .....	<i>Pavona</i>
b. septo-costae thin, curved and > 1 cm .....	<i>Leptoseris</i>

*Pavona* and *Leptoseris* both form contorted sheets or leaves; corallites have a thamnasteroid growth form. Septo-costae of *Pavona* are thicker, shorter and straighter than seen in *Leptoseris*.

*Pavona* (1999: over 3,400 pieces in trade, 75% live)

- “Cactus Corals” form large thickets of highly contorted, bifacial fronds
- colonies also are massive and columnar and may be several meters in diameter
- corallites are small (up to 3 mm diameter) and lack walls
- septo-costae from one corallite are continuous with septo-costae of surrounding corallites

*Leptoseris* (1999: 102, all live)

- “Lettuce Coral” colonies are foliaceous, sheet-like or encrusting
- colonies form stands of delicate, contorted and subdivided fronds (like *Pavona*), however corallites are only on the upper surface
- corallites round to oval, 2- 6 mm diameter (H); corallites have poorly defined walls (H-I)
- septo-costae form fine, conspicuous ridges that radiate out (P), septa may have a uniform height or alternate in height

*Gardinoseris* (1999 not reported, but in trade in previous years)

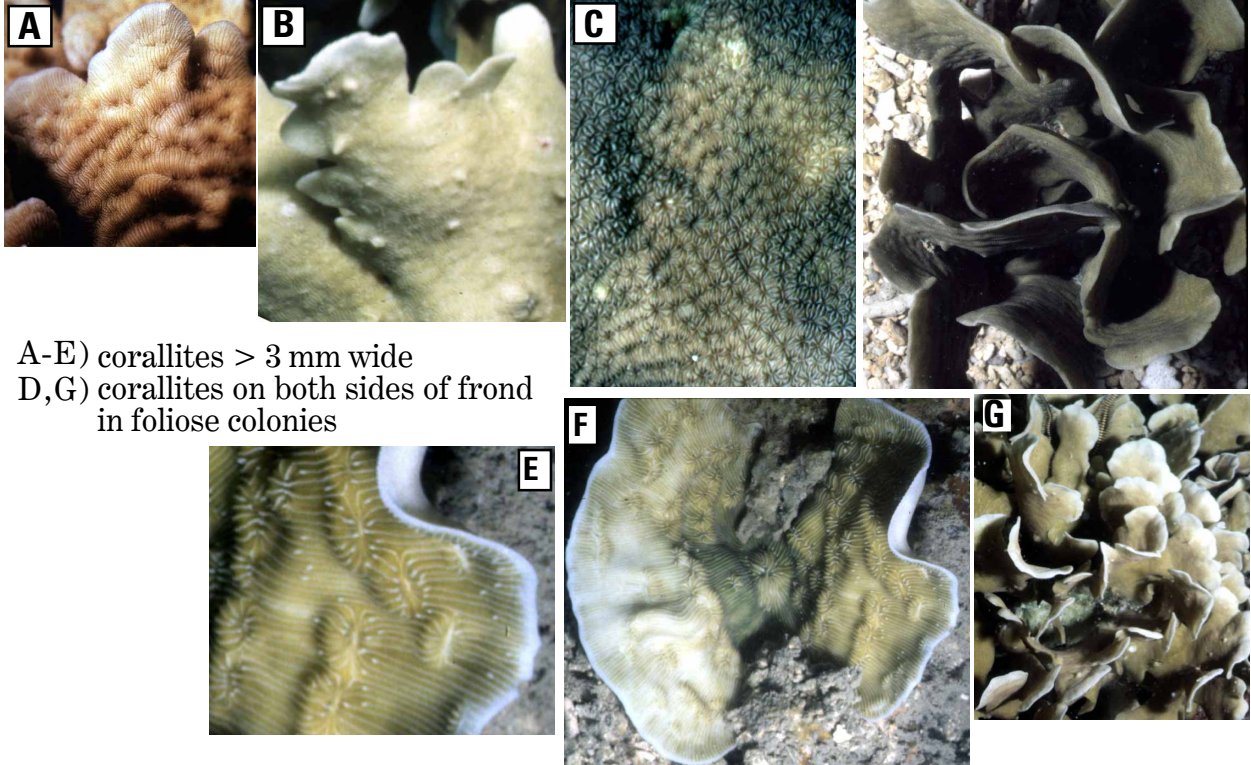
- colonies are massive to encrusting, with plate-like margins (J-K)
- corallites have poorly defined walls, but are separated by narrow ridges (J)
- each corallite or group of corallites is at the base of a neat excavation
- septo-costae are fine and even

# Plating and Foliaceous Corals

## Family Agariciidae **Thamnasteroid growth form**

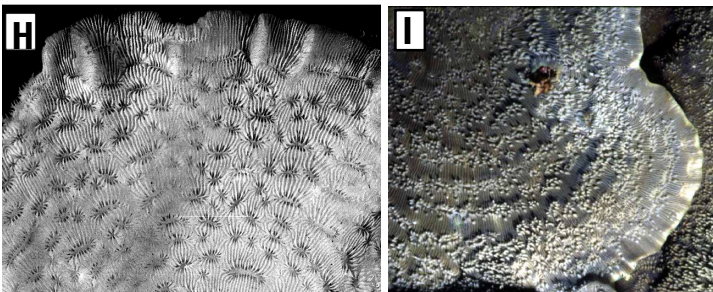
### *Pavona*

- common name: Cactus Coral (17 species)
- colonies foliaceous; form thin upright bifacial fronds



A-E) corallites > 3 mm wide  
D, G) corallites on both sides of frond  
in foliose colonies

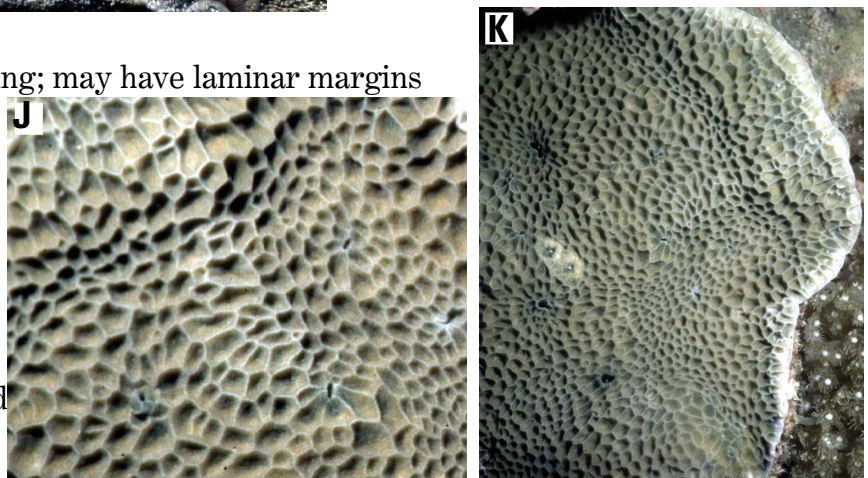
- ### *Leptoseris*
- common name: Lettuce Coral (12 species)
  - colonies foliaceous; delicate, leaf-like



### *Gardinoseris planulata*

- colonies massive, encrusting; may have laminar margins

J-K) corallites have poorly defined walls, but are separated by acute ridges  
J) each corallite is at the bottom of a neat, rounded excavation  
J) septo-costae are fine and even



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

	<b>Go To:</b>
40. a. 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
b. colonies with distinct branches, may be erect, with secondary divisions or partially fused to form plate-like structures .....	41
41. a. crustose, foliaceous or branching; branch surface has small (< 1cm), cone-shaped protuberances between corallites .....	<i>Hydnophora</i>
b. colony plate-like with prominent fluted projections; calices in valleys .....	42
42. a. corallites inconspicuous .....	<i>Pectinia</i>
b. corallites in rows; colony is plating or crustose with branches or columns of radiating whorls .....	<b>SEE PAGE page 56-57</b> .....
c. colony is delicate, plating or foliaceous corals; surface bumpy or smooth, coenosteum with small pits .....	<b>SEE PAGE page 56-57</b> ..... <i>Ocyropsa</i>

*Pectinia* (1999: 2,150 pieces in trade, most live)

- “Carnation Corals, Hibiscus Corals” are distinctive foliaceous corals, with an encrusting base and a series of irregular walls that project upward; walls form vertical, folded plates, columns or spires
- colony surface smooth; corallites occur at any position on the colony, and are > 1 cm diameter but corallites are indistinct and without walls
- septo-costae may have spiny dentations
- tentacles are long and tubular, and are only extended at night

*Hydnophora* (1999: 16,000 pieces in trade, most live)

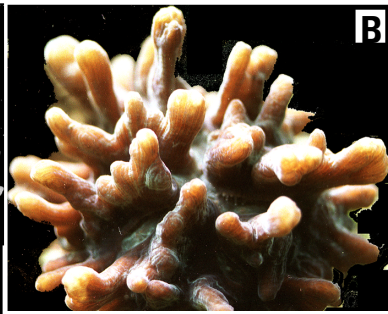
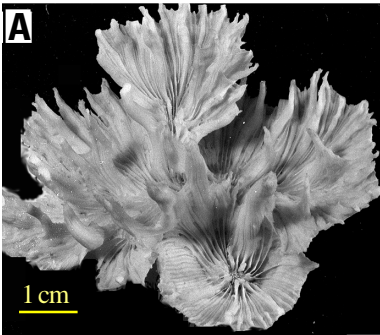
- “Antler, Velvet or Horn Coral” colonies are ramose, but may also be massive, with a rounded or lumpy shape, or encrusting; thickened projections or branches often arise from an encrusting base
- colonies green, brown, tan, or cream and are usually fluorescent
- corals have characteristic cone-shaped monticules (skeletal knobs) called hydnoophores between corallites that are distinguished by a slightly darker coloration
- when tentacles are expanded, polyps resemble the “velvet” on deer and elk antlers



# Plating and Foliaceous Corals

## Family Pectiniidae

*Pectinia* ■ common name: Hibiscus Coral; Carnation Coral (5 species)  
 ■ colonies laminar or leaf-like with upward projecting spires



A) corallites occur in any position  
 E) corallites large and indistinct  
 C) septo-costae radiate out, may end in a point  
 D) tentacles are rarely extended



## Family Merulinidae

*Hydnophora* ■ common name: Horn Coral; Antler Coral; Velvet Coral (6 species)  
 ■ colonies foliaceous, branching, massive, encrusting

G) sculptured, conical hydnoophores between corallites  
 I) corallite walls absent  
 H-M) tentacles extended at night, may be extended in day

