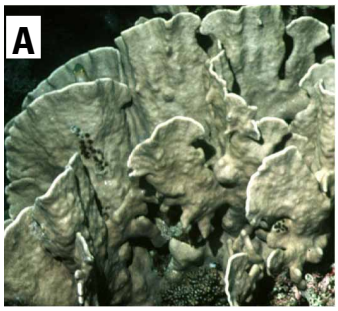
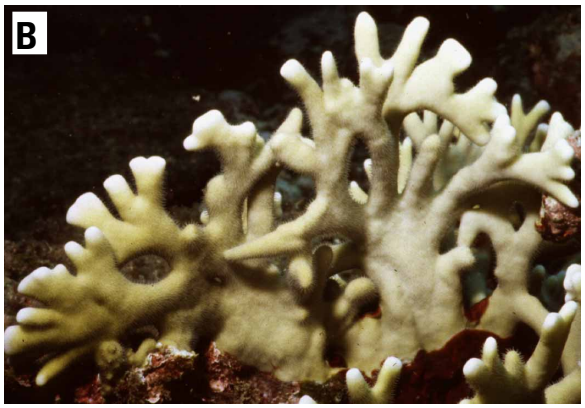
Other Types of Corals: Hydrozoan Corals

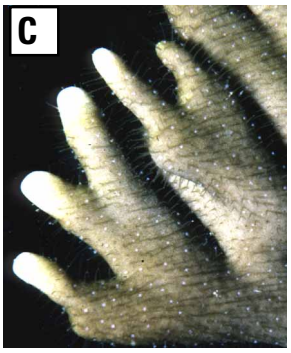
Class Hydrozoa

Order Milleporina

Millepora ■common name: Fire Coral



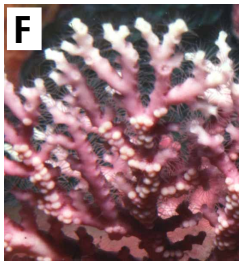




A-C) branching or folded, vertical plates
B) smooth surface with pores of two sizes
C) hair-like tentacles
A-C) color: green, cream, yellow or tan

Order Stylasterina

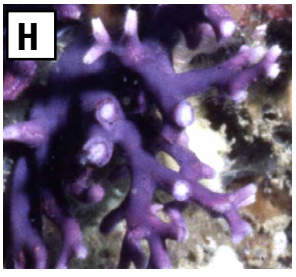
Stylaster ■common name: Lace Corals



D-F) finely branched
D) grows in one plane
F) pores < 1 mm
two pore sizes

Distichopora ■common name: Lace Coral, Ember Coral

G) flattened, blunt-ended branches
H) pores on lateral margins of branches
pores <1mm; one pore size



Simplified key to coral genera in the wildlife trade

		Go to:
1.	a. coral lacks true corallite structures (no visible septa or walls)	2
	b. coral has true corallite structures . . . . . **SEE PAGE 22**	6
2.	a. corallum covered with tiny pores	3
	b. skeleton is a series of hollow, red tubes connected by horizontal platforms; live colony covered with small, feather-like tentacles	*Tubipora*
3.	a. coral delicately branched, pores in groups or rows; pores of 2 sizes	4
	b. coral with vertical flat plates and columns, colony surface smooth with small randomly distributed pores < 1 mm diameter	5
4.	a. pores arranged in three rows on sides of branches; branches smooth	*Distichopora*
	b. pores in circle around large central pore; delicate, knobby branches	*Stylaster*
5.	a. skeleton blue (when dried); covered with white polyps when live	*Heliopora*
	b. skeleton white; covered with fine, unbranched hairs when live; stings	*Millepora*

ANTHOZOAN CORALS

Heliopora coerulea (1999: 56,000 pieces in trade; 900 live, 55,000 dead; also 13,500 kg)

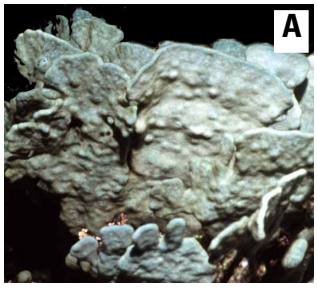
- "Blue Coral" is an anthozoan; octocoral; ancient reef-building coral from the Mesozoic Era; only living representative in the Family Helioporidae. World's largest colonies are found in Japan
- colonies are composed of multiple vertical flat plates and columns, and may be over 1m in diameter; underwater they resemble *Millepora*
- living colonies are brown, and contain symbiotic algae (like many scleractinian corals)
- corallites 0.7-1 mm diameter, are distributed randomly over the porous skeletal surface
- skeleton is a permanent blue color composed of aragonite crystals (instead of calcite)

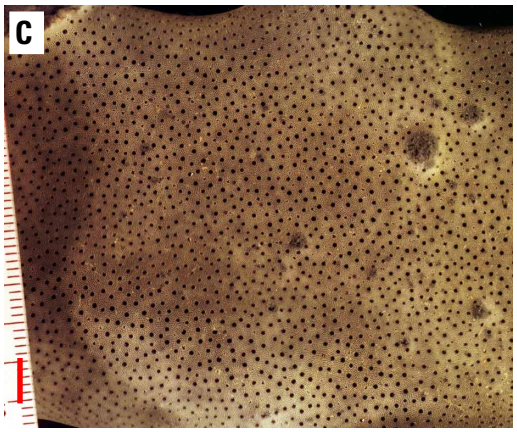
Tubipora musica (1999: 17,500 pieces in trade; 11,600 live)

- "Organ-pipe Coral" is an anthozoan; octocoral (a relative of sea fans and other gorgonians)
- small (< 1 cm) beige or white polyps, each with 8 feather-like tentacles; polyps are extended in the day, but will retract when disturbed
- unique skeleton composed of thin red tubes connected by tiers of horizontal platforms; skeleton has permanent red color
- used for ornaments, curios and jewelry (50% trade); and traded live for aquaria (50%)

Order Coenothecalia
Family Helioporidae

Heliopora coerulea ■common name: Blue Coral



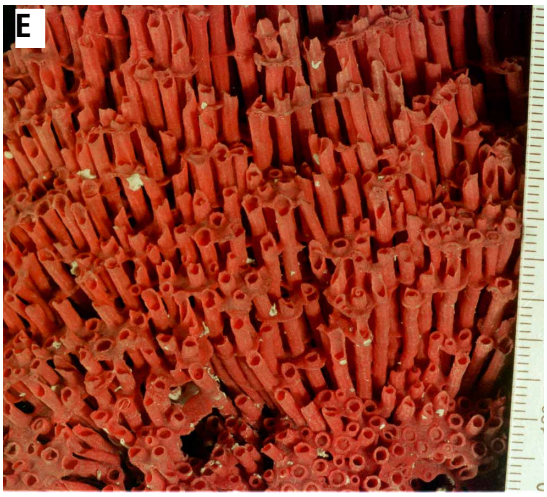


A-B) plate-like, columnar or arborescent (foliaceous) growth form
A-B) live colony resembles *Millepora*, but corallites are larger
C) skeleton is blue
A,D) colony surface smooth;
pore-like corallites less than 1 mm diameter

Order Stolonifera
Family Tubiporidae

Tubipora musica
■common name: Organ-pipe Coral

top view



skeleton

side view

polyps expanded

E) skeleton has permanent red color;
F) polyps white, with eight feathery (pinnate) tentacles
F-G) polyps expanded day and night, but retract when disturbed
G) skeleton may be encrusted with algae when live
F,G) colonies have a massive or submassive growth form; colony consists of a series of parallel tubes, 1-2 mm diameter, that are connected by horizontal platforms