

In the following pages a series of decision trees are presented as an additional mechanism to guide users towards identifying the most common genera that are used in the trade.

The major Coral Types referred to in the manual and for which decision trees are available are :

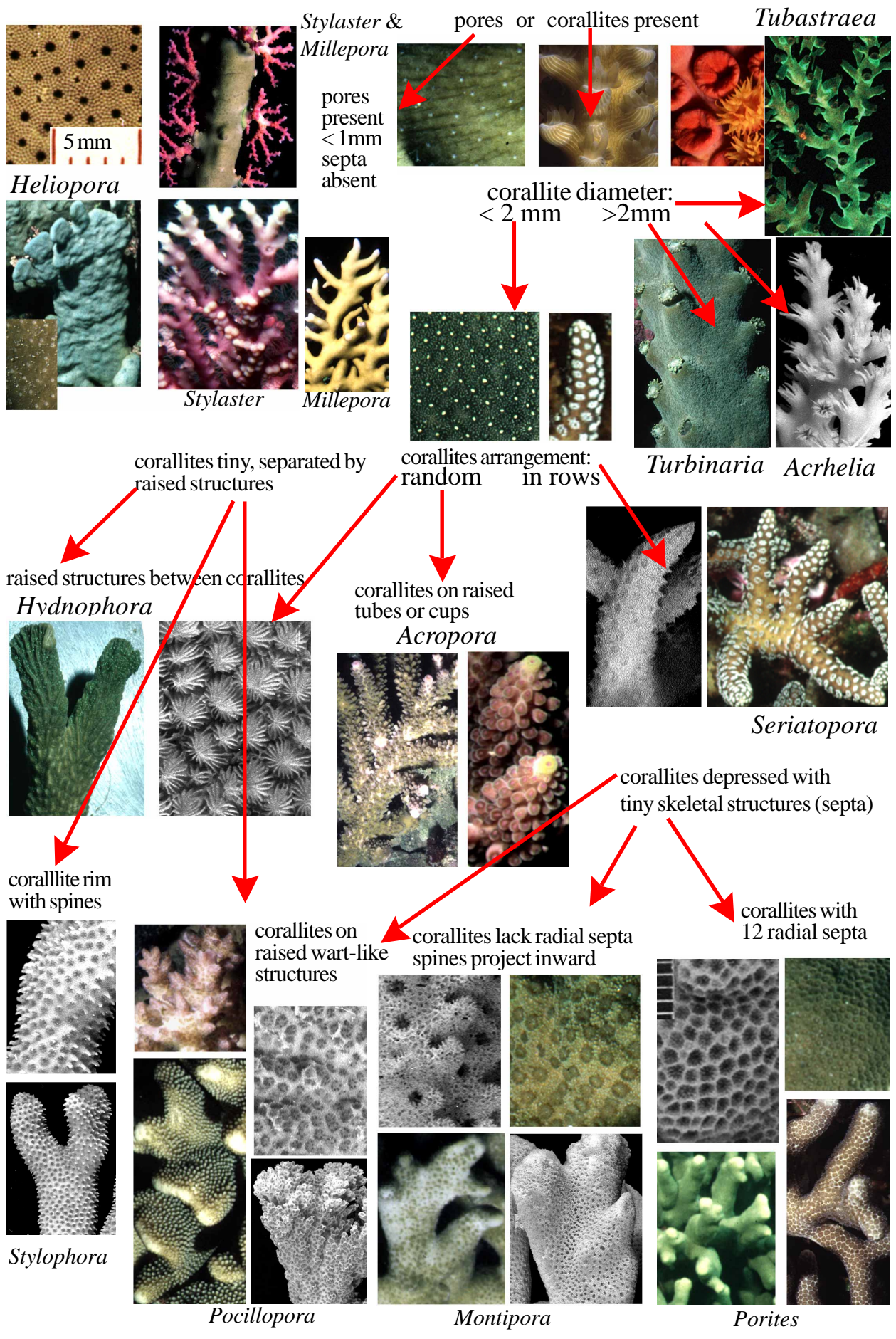
- Massive
- Plating
- Foliaceous
- Branching
- Solitary or Free Living.

These Coral Types refer to easily recognized coral shapes that can be applied in a simplified way so that the variety of coral shapes can be used as a lead into the full variety of genera.

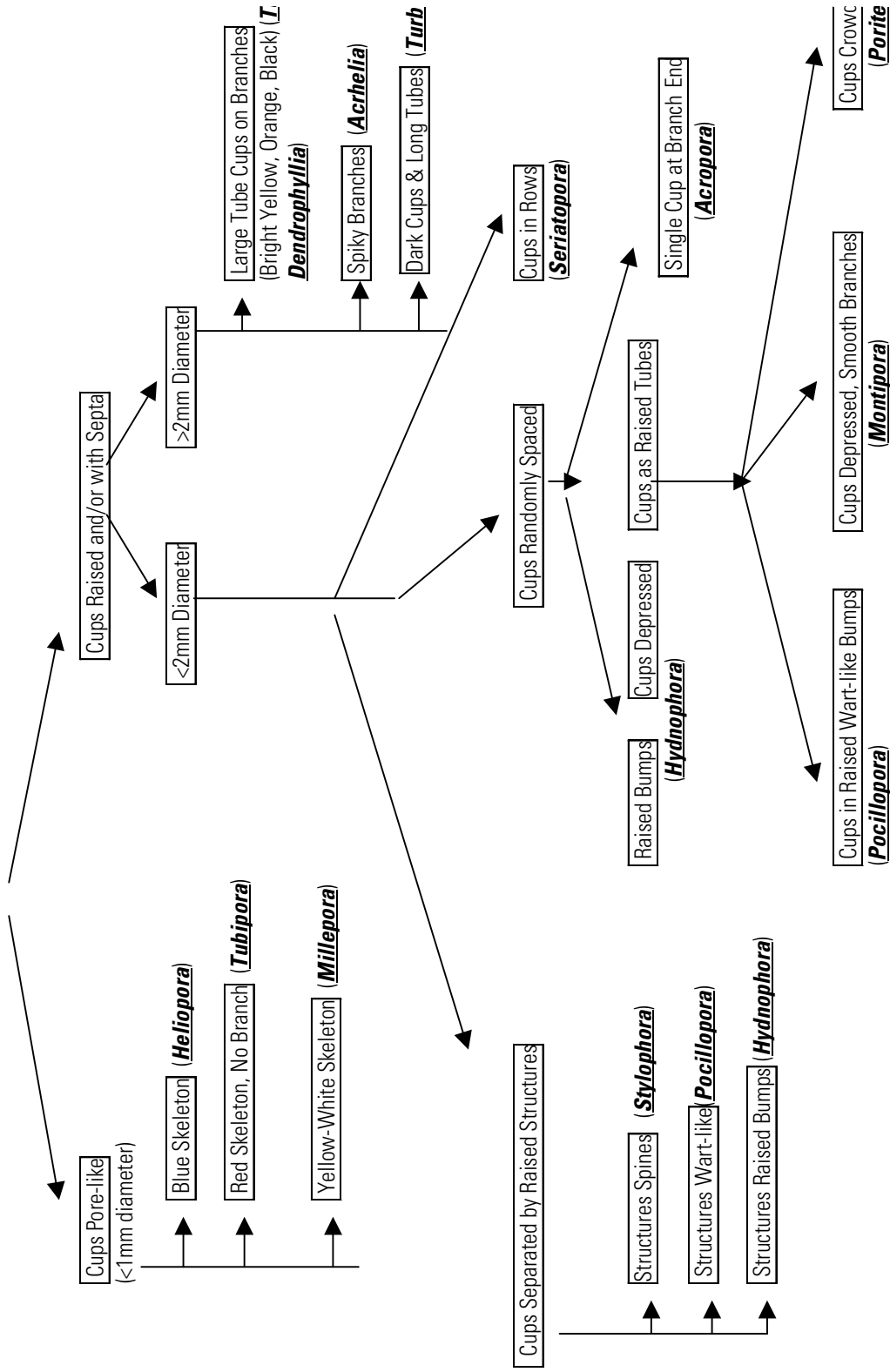
NOTES TO ACCOMPANY THE DECISION TREES

1. Plating and Foliaceous coral types are pooled together in the decision tree compared to the manual that treats them separately.
2. Note that many genera occur more than once in different trees that deal with different coral types. This is because some genera include different species that have these different growth form types.
3. No decision tree for the Solitary or Free Living types is presented here.
4. Massive type decision trees are divided into 3 sections for greater clarity.

Illustrated Key to branching coral genera



BRANCHING CORALS : Colony Shape BRANCHING With (Usually) Sub Branches
DECISION TREE FOR BRANCHING CORAL SHAPE

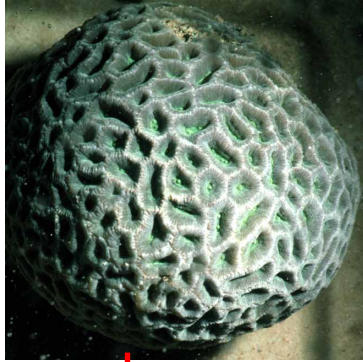


Illustrated Key to massive corals: round or oval polyps 13

colonies hemispherical or dome-shaped

Goniopora

24 septa; prominent tentacles

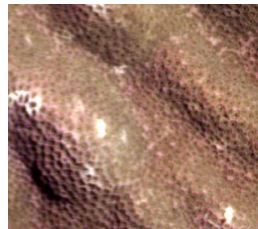
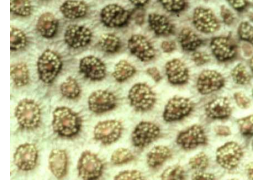


corallite diameter less than 3 mm
corallites walls shared



Alveopora

12 septa
12 tentacles



Porites 12 septa present and small tentacles

corallite diameter greater than 3 mm



corallite walls shared

Favites septa uniform size

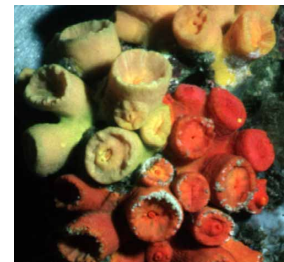
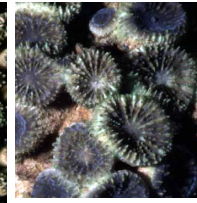
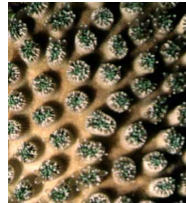


Goniastrea septa alternate in size
paliform lobe well developed



corallite walls separate

corallite extends more than 1 cm above coenosteum



Galaxea

Blastomussa

Tubastraea
Dendrophyllia

corallite flush with coenosteum or it extends less than 1 cm above coenosteum



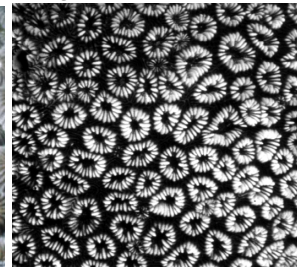
corallite with 1-2 mouths (intratentacular budding)



Favia



Diploastrea



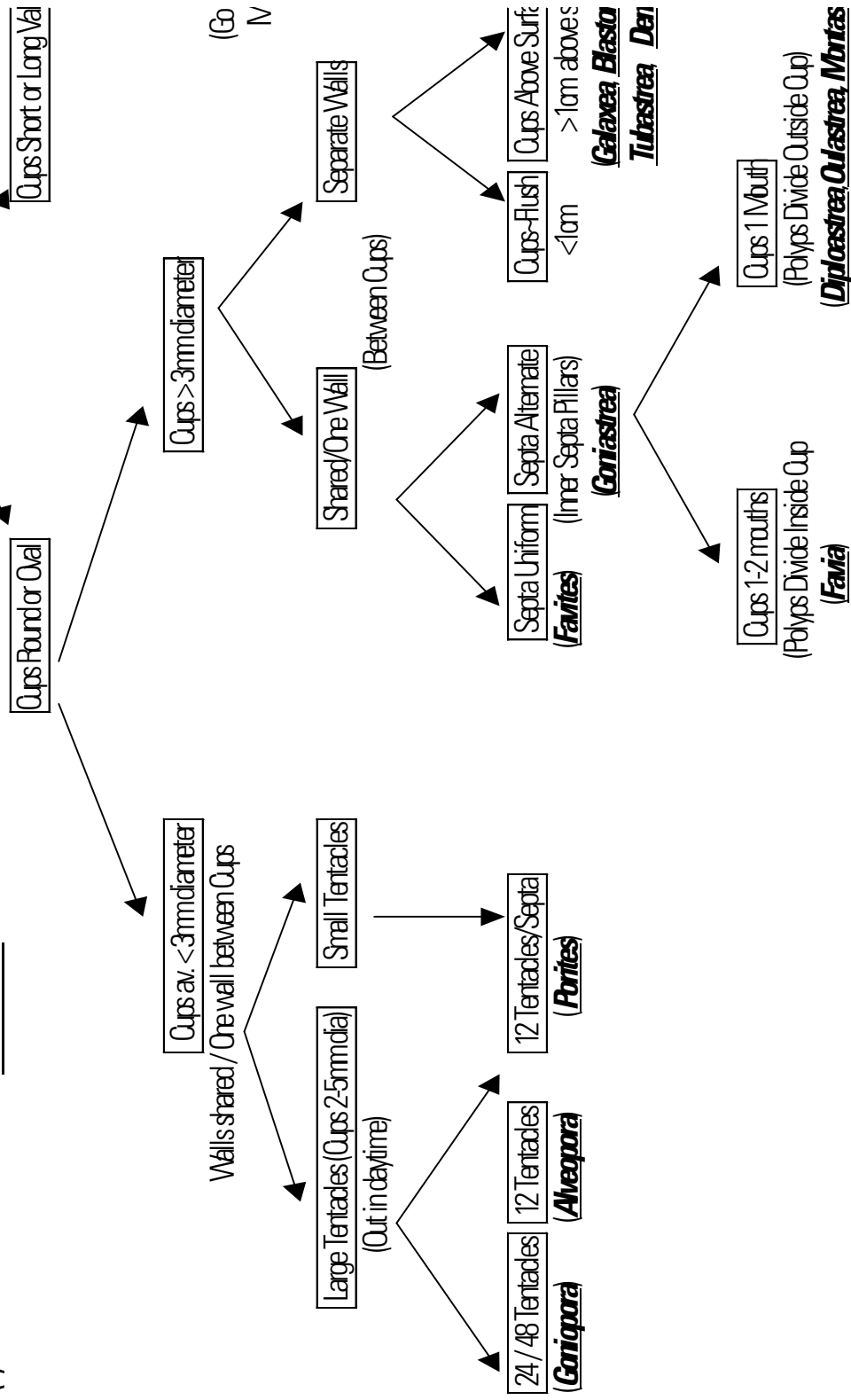
Oulastrea



Montastrea

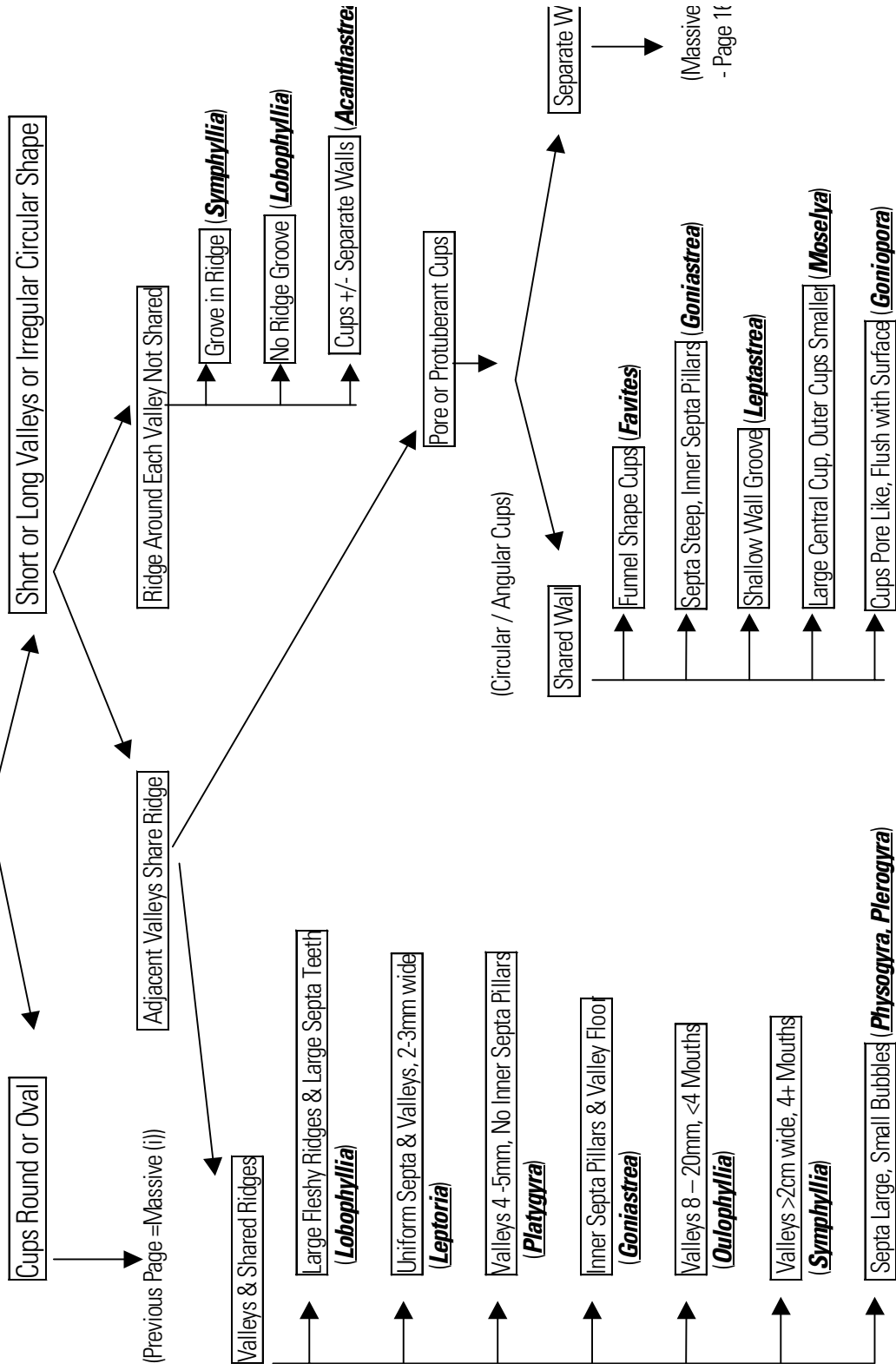
corallites with one mouth only (extratentacular budding)

MASSIVE CORALS: Colony Shape DOME, HEMISPHERICAL
(i) DECISION TREE FOR MASSIVE CORAL SHAPE

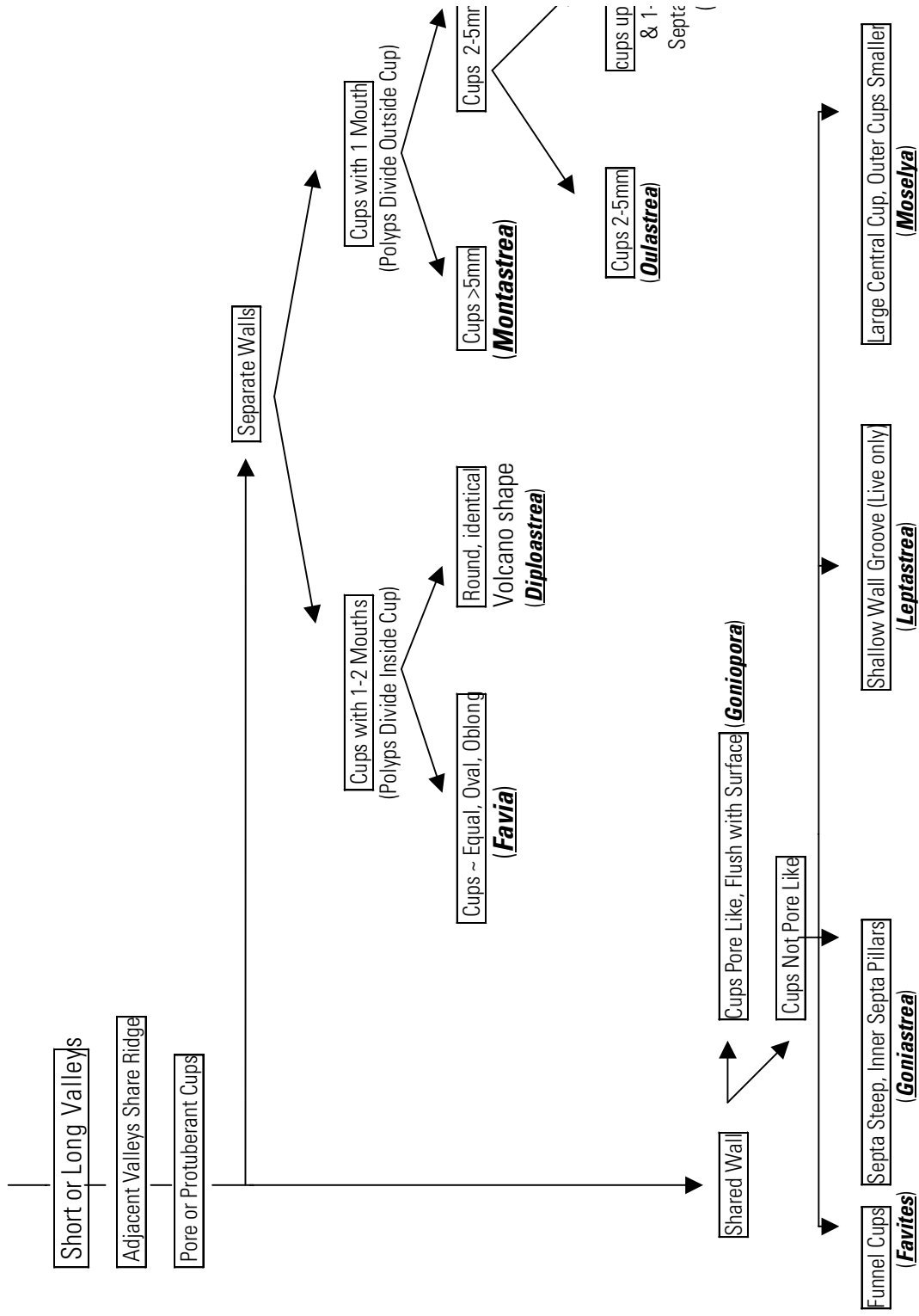


(See Massive iii Page

(ii) DECISION TREE FOR MASSIVE CORAL SHAPE (CONTINUED)



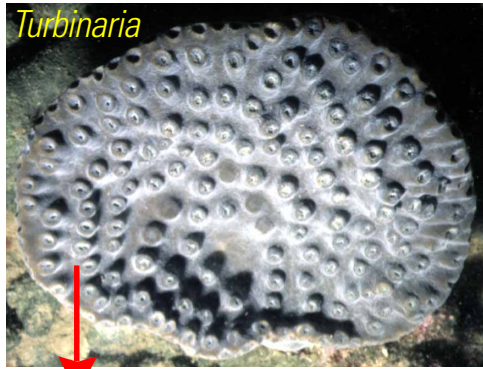
(iii) DECISION TREE FOR MASSIVE CORAL SHAPE (CONTINUED)



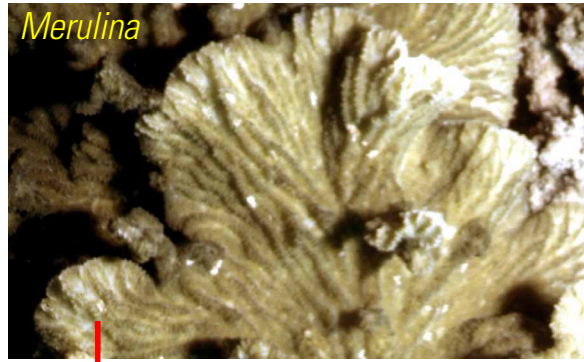
Illustrated Key to plating and foliaceous corals

corallites are separate

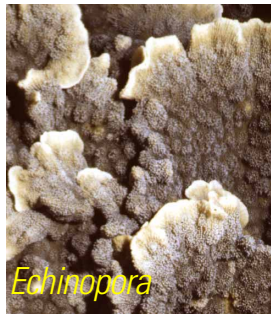
corallites arranged in rows



a) large round or oval corallites; plocoid; separate walls



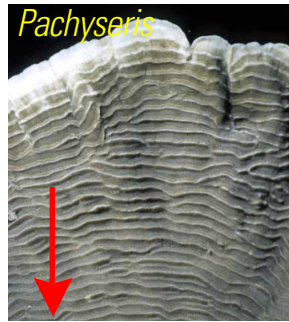
corallites in valley; valleys separated by wall



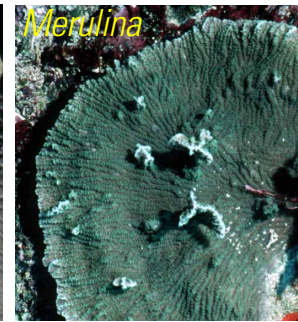
Echinopora
corallites circular, raised; coenosteum granulated; septa exsert



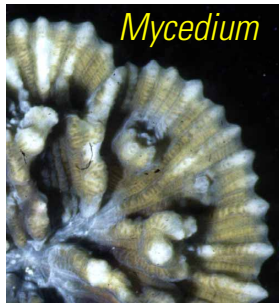
Turbinaria
corallites circular; elevated; coenosteum porous; septa short



Pachyseris
valleys and walls parallel to colony margin; septa smooth and neat



Merulina
valleys and walls radiate to colony margin; septa jagged and exsert



Mycedium
corallites tubular, point out ribs radiate from center to margin; coenosteum smooth

b) corallites large, but indistinct; colony has fluted projections



Pectinia

valleys and walls irregular; raised structures between corallites



Hydnohpora

c) corallites small and not raised; lack true walls;

coenosteum has pits



Oxypora

corallites depressed; septa form spines that point inward coenosteum porous or with small bumps

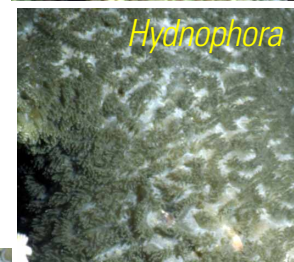


Montipora

septo-costae radiate between corallites



Pavona



Hydnohpora



Pavona

PLATING & FOLIACEOUS CORALS: Coral Shape FLATTENED, SHEET-LIKE (VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL)
 DECISION TREE

