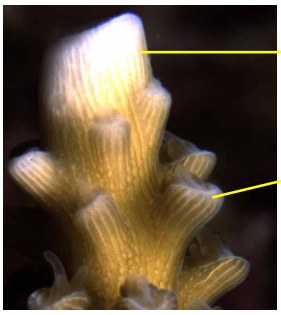
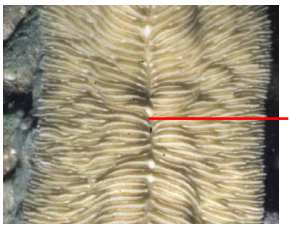
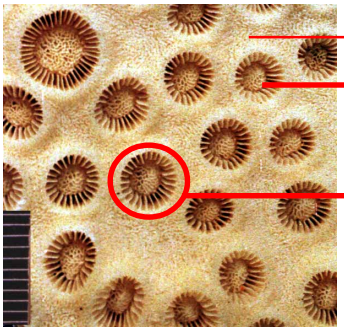
Coral Features and Terminology

Morphological characteristics

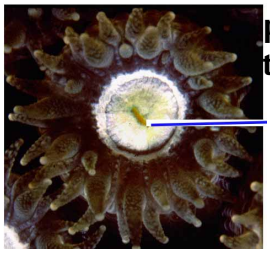
Axial Corallite - characteristic enlarged corallite at the growing tip of *Acropora*;
Radial Corallites- remainder of corallites on sides of branches
Axial Furrow - narrow groove extending down center of colony in the slipper corals (Fungiidae)
Calice - the upper surface of a corallite to which the soft tissue attaches
Coenosteum- skeleton between the corallites that unites individual corallites
Columella- skeletal structures in the center of the corallite
Corallite - the skeleton secreted by an individual coral polyp
Corallum - the entire skeleton of a coral secreted by a colony of polyps or a single polyp
Costae - radial skeletal elements that extend out of the corallite wall

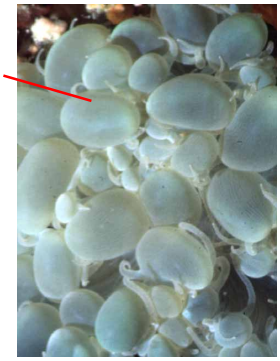


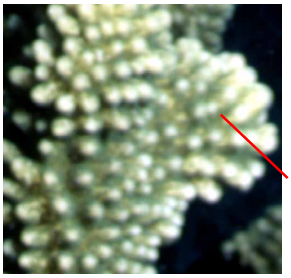




Hydnophore- cone-shaped protuberances between corallites
Oral Disc - tissue extending from the tentacles to the mouth
Mantle - fleshy fold of tissue extended by some corals when tentacles are retracted
Paliform Lobe - pillar-like projections on the inner margin of the septa surrounding the mouth
Papillae - raised structures on *Montipora* skeleton that are smaller than corallites
Polyp - an individual coral animal including only the soft tissue
Septa - vertical skeletal partitions dividing corallite into radial sections; septa project toward the center of the calyx.
Exsert Septa are extended above the corallite and coenosteum
Septo-costae - vertical skeletal partitions extending between corallites composed of both septa and costae
Verrucae - small cylindrical projections on skeleton of *Pocillopora*
Vesicles - inflated, ball-like structures that contain symbiotic algae in *Plerogyra* and *Physogyra*







Growth forms

Solitary - a coral consisting of an individual polyp — **Page 22-25**
Colonial - a coral with more than one polyp/corallite and:

- **Phaceloid** - corals with corallites adjoined only toward their bases — **Page 30-33**
- **Flabellate** - corallites in long meandering rows or valleys that share a common base, however the walls (or ridges) of adjacent valleys are not connected — **Page 34-35**
- **Flabello-Meandroid** - corallites in long meandering rows with common base; walls may be partially fused. This condition is also referred to as flabellate — **Page 36-39**
- **Meandroid**- massive corals with coral mouths aligned in valleys separated by ridge; adjacent valleys share the same ridge — **Page 38-41**
- **Cerioid**- massive corals that have corallites sharing common walls — **Page 42-43**
- **Plocoid**- corals that have corallites with distinct walls separated by coenosteum — **Page 44-47**
- **Hydnophoroid** - coral with cone-shaped protuberances between corallites — **Page 54-55**
- **Thamnasteroid**- plating coral with no walls surrounding corallites — **Page 52-53**
- **Free living-** colonies that have no point of attachment, with corallites primarily located on the upper surface — **Page 26-29**

Coral types

Massive - mounding; similar in all dimensions — **Page 38-49**
Plating - laminar, flattened or sheet-like, may be vertical or horizontal — **Page 50-57**
Foliaceous - leaf-like, thin, folded plates or spires extending upward — **Page 44-45; 50-57**
Branching - arborescent or tree-like to digitate or finger-like — **Page 48-49; 54-63**

Massive coral	Plating coral	Foliaceous coral	Branching coral
			
Goniastrea	***Mycedium***	***Pectinia***	***Acropora***

NON-TECHNICAL TERMS

Additional non-technical descriptions are presented here with reference to the technical terms used in the main part of the manual (in brackets and parenthesis).

Cup – depression in coral skeleton where a live coral polyp is situated (="Corallite")

Septa – vertical panels extending from the edge of the cup towards the center (="Septa")

Inner Septa Pillars – pillar like growths on inner edge of the septa (="Paliform Lobes")

Coral Surface – area on colony between cups, outside cups (="Coenosteum")

Walls – outer edge of a cup defining the extent of a single polyp (="Walls")

Valleys – winding elongate depressions in massive corals, short or long (="Valley")

Ridge – outer edge of valley, equivalent to walls of a cup (="Ridge")

Cup Base – central base of a cup, disk like (="Columella")