

CNIDARIA, OTHER THAN REEF-BUILDING CORALS OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND

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There are no previous records of octocorals, zoanthids or hydrozoan corals, and few of anemones, from Christmas Island. Five species of clownfish sea anemones from Christmas Island are recorded by Dunn (1981). These are included in the present list (Table 11).

The most abundant octocoral on the reefs around Christmas Island is the blue coral *Heliopora coerulea*. The typical coral reef alcyonacean genera *Lobophytum*, *Sarcophyton* and *Sinularia* occurred at most of the localities surveyed but were not abundant.

Gorgonians, including very large fans of *Subergorgia* sp. were found on the deeper slopes with other species of gorgonians and antipatharians. A particularly rich area for gorgonians, hydrozoan corals and antipatharians

was the entrance to a sea cave on the east side of North West Point (Station 2).

The octocorals in the collection made by the Western Australian Museum expedition in February 1987 have been identified to genus by Dr P. Alderslade of the Northern Territory Museum, Darwin.

Distichopora violacea was identified by Dr S. Cairns of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington. The remaining taxa were identified to varying levels by the author.

REFERENCE

- Dunn, D.F. 1981. The clownfish sea anemones. *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* 71: 1-115.

Table 11 List of Cnidaria, other than reef-building corals.

Key to symbols

Numbers = sampling stations (Table 4.)

i = intertidal

s = shallow (1-9 m)

d = deep (10-25 m)

D = recorded by Dunn (1981)

	Station numbers
HYDROZOA	
Milleporina	
<i>Millepora</i> sp.	3,9,10,11
Stylasterina	
<i>Stylaster</i> sp.	1d,2s,3d,5d, Daniel Roux Cave
<i>Distichopora violacea</i> (Pallas 1766)	1,2s,12s, Daniel Roux Cave
ANTHOZOA	
Octocorallia	
Coenothecalia	
HELIOPORIDAE	
<i>Heliopora coerulea</i> (Pallas, 1766)	1,2,3s,d,5s,13s
Stolonifera	
CLAVULARIIDAE	
<i>Carijoa</i> sp.	12d
TUBIPORIDAE	
<i>Pachyclavularia</i> sp.	1s,3d,4s,12d,15d
Alcyonacea	
ALCYONIIDAE	
<i>Alcyonium</i> sp.	Jones Pt. 9 m, 9
<i>Cladiella</i> sp.	3s,5s,15d

Table 11 (cont.)

	Station numbers
<i>Lobophytum</i> spp.	1s,d,2d,3s,4s,5s,d,9d,10s,12d, 15d
<i>Sarcophyton</i> spp.	1s,d,2d,3s,4s,9d,12d,15d
<i>Sinularia</i> spp.	1s,d,2d,3s,d,5s,d,9d,10s,11d,15d
NEPHTHEIDAE	
<i>Stereonephthya</i> sp.	15d
SIPHONOGORGIIDAE	
<i>Siphonogorgia</i> sp.	2s,11d,12d
SUBERGORGIIIDAE	
<i>Subergorgia</i> sp.	2s,12d
ACANTHOGORGIIDAE	
<i>Acanthogorgia</i> sp.	2s,15d
Zoantharia	
Antipatharia	
<i>Cirripathes</i> sp.	11d
<i>Antipathes</i> sp.	2s
ZOANTHIDAE	
<i>Palythoa</i> sp. 1 (aff. <i>heideri</i>)	3i,4,13i
<i>Palythoa</i> sp. 2 (aff. <i>densa</i>)	3i,5,9,13i
<i>Palythoa</i> sp. 3 (<i>divided</i>)	3i
<i>Palythoa</i> sp. 4 (<i>pink</i>)	3i
<i>Zoanthus</i> sp. 1 (cf. <i>marshae</i>)	3i,4,13i
<i>Zoanthus</i> sp. 2	4,13i
<i>Zoanthus</i> sp. 3	13i
Aactiniaria	
ACTINIIDAE	
cf. <i>Actinogeton sesere</i> (Haddon and Shackleton, 1893)	3i
<i>Entacmaea quadricolor</i> (Rueppell and Leuckart 1828)	D,1s
THALASSIANTHIDAE	
<i>Cryptodendrum adhaesivum</i> Klunzinger, 1877	D
STICHODACTYLIDAE	
<i>Heteractis magnifica</i> (Quoy and Gaimard, 1833)	D,11s
<i>H. aurora</i> (Quoy and Gaimard, 1833)	D
<i>Stichodactyla mertensii</i> Brandt, 1835	D
Corallimorpharia	
Gen. & sp. indet.	3s,5,15d