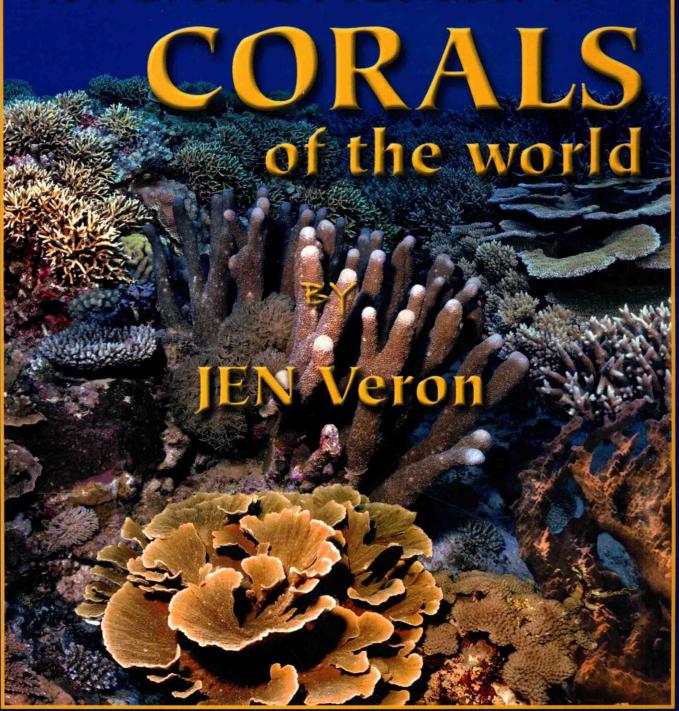


AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE MONOGRAPH SERIES

Volume 11

NEW SPECIES DESCRIBED IN



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE MONOGRAPH SERIES

Volume 11

NEW SPECIES DESCRIBED IN CORALS OF THE WORLD

by

J.E.N. VERON



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This volume was produced at the Australian Institute of Marine Science by Wendy Ellery, Tim Simmonds and Steve Clarke.

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New species described in Corals of the World (Veron, 2000)

J.E.N. Veron

Corals of the World Veron (2000) contains summary descriptions and illustrations of 794 species of zooxanthellate Scleractinia which have been studied to the point where they can be reliably distinguished from other species in both the field and laboratory. Of these 794 species, 101 required new names and 2 required re-naming. This volume contains taxonomic details of these new species. Emphasis is given to skeletal characteristics to meet taxonomic requirements rather than field characteristics to meet identification requirements. Corals of the World has the reverse emphasis. Coral ID (Veron and Stafford-Smith, 2002) contains both field and skeletal characters and is specifically designed to support the needs of combined field and laboratory identification.

Studies which underpin all species included in *Corals of the World* have been undertaken in all major reef regions of the world over the past 25 years. As a result, information about most species, including the new species included in this volume, has been obtained from more than one country or biogeographic region. Although most laboratory work on these species was undertaken at the Australian Institute of Marine Science, which houses a central reference collection, much has also been undertaken in other countries. A high proportion of specimens included in this study remain in, or have been returned to, their country of origin. Movement of specimens has, for many countries at different times, been constrained by the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES) regulations. The country of origin of holotypes, and the institution in which they have been deposited, are indicated in Table 1.

| Species | Type locality | Holotype Number |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Acanthastrea faviaformis | Northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. | G55832 |
| Acanthastrea regularis | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55818 |
| Acanthastrea subechinata | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. | MSI-3001-CO |
| Acropora cylindrica | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55819 |
| Acropora elizabethensis | Elizabeth Reef, south east Australia. | G55778 |
| Acropora fenneri | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. | MSI-3002-CO |
| Acropora filiformis | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. | MSI-3003-CO |
| Acropora gomezi | Flores, Indonesia. | G55800 |
| Acropora japonica | Honshu, Japan | IGPS 108946 |
| Acropora lamarcki | Zanzibar, Tanzania. | G55855 |
| Acropora maryae | Sharm al-Sheikh, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt | G55785 |
| Acropora minuta | Bali, Indonesia. | G55796 |
| Acropora navini | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55820 |
| Acropora parahemprichii | Bali, Indonesia. | G55797 |
| Acropora parapharaonis | Sharm al-Sheikh, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. | G55786 |
| Acropora pectinatus | Flores, Indonesia. | G55801 |
| Acropora proximalis | Flores, Indonesia. | G55802 |
| Acropora rufus | Sharm al-Sheikh, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. | G55787 |
| Acropora torresiana | Torres Strait, Great Barrier Reef, Australia. | G55780 |
| Alveopora minuta | Bali, Indonesia. | G55798 |
| Anacropora pillai | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55821 |
| Anacropora spumosa | Northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. | G55833 |

| Species Cycloseris colini | Type locality Palau. | Holotype Numbe G55817 |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| Cyphastrea hexasepta | Northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. | G55834 |
| Echinophyllia costata | Sulawesi, Indonesia. | G55809 |
| Echinophyllia pectinata | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. | MSI-3004-CO |
| Echinopora irregularis | Northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. | G55835 |
| Echinopora robusta | Southern Sri Lanka. | G55849 |
| Echinopora taylorae | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. | MSI-3005-CO |
| Echinopora tiranensis | Northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. | G55843 |
| Favia albidus | Sharm al-Sheikh, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. | G55788 |
| Favia lacuna | Northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. | G55836 |
| Favia marshae | Ashomore Reef, north-west Australia. | WAM Z12910 |
| Favia rosaria | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55822 |
| Favia truncatus | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55823 |
| Favia vietnamensis | Nha Trang, Vietnam. | G55859 |
| Favites besate | Southern New Caledonia. | ZMA Coel. 5831 |
| | | |
| Favites micropentagona Favites paraflexuosa | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. Houtman Abrolhos Islands, south-western | MSI-3006-CO |
| | Australia. | WAM Z12911 |
| Fungia puishani | Socotra. G55846 | |
| Galaxea acrhelia | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55824 |
| Galaxea cryptoramosa | Sulawesi, Indonesia. | G55810 |
| Galaxea longisepta | Sulawesi, Indonesia. | G55807 |
| Goniastrea minuta | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55825 |
| Goniastrea ramosa | Flores, Indonesia. | G55803 |
| Goniastrea thecata | Northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. | G55837 |
| Goniopora albiconis | Southern Sri Lanka. | G55850 |
| Goniopora ciliatus | Sharm al-Sheikh, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. | G55789 |
| Goniopora pearsoni | Sharm al-Sheikh, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. | G55790 |
| Goniopora sultani | Northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. | G55838 |
| Halomitra meierae | Bali, Indonesia. | G55799 |
| Leptastrea aequalis | Cocos (Keeling) Atoll, eastern Indian Ocean, | |
| | Australia. | WAM Z12912 |
| Leptoseris striata | Scott Reef, north-west Australia. | WAM Z12913 |
| Lobophyllia dentatus | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55826 |
| Lobophyllia flabelliformis | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55827 |
| Lobophyllia serratus | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. | MSI-3007-CO |
| Micromussa diminuta | Southern Sri Lanka. | G55851 |
| Montastrea colemani | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. | MSI-3008-CO |
| Montastrea serageldini | Mahé, Seychelles. | G55844 |
| Montipora aspergillus | Northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. | G55839 |
| Montipora cryptus | Sharm al-Sheikh, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. | G55791 |
| Montipora delicatula | Raja Ampat Islands, Irian Jaya, Indonesia. | G55805 |
| Montipora echinata | Northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. | G55840 |
| Montipora hemispherica | Eastern Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. | G55782 |
| Montipora hodgsoni | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. | MSI-3012-CO |
| Montipora kellyi | Tuléar, south-west Madagascar. | G55813 |
| Montipora niugini | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55828 |
| Montipora pachytuberculata | Northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. | G55841 |
| Montipora palawanensis | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. | MSI-3009-CO |
| | | |
| Montipora porites | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. Northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. | MSI-3010-CO |
| Montipora saudii | | G55842 |
| Montipora taiwanensis | South-east Taiwan. | G55854 |
| Montipora verruculosus | Raja Ampat Islands, Irian Jaya, Indonesia. | G55806 |
| Montipora vietnamensis | Nha Trang Vietnam. | G55858 |
| Mycedium steeni | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. | MSI-3011-CO |
| Mycedium umbra | Eastern Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. | G55783 |
| Oxypora convoluta | Sharm al-Sheikh, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. | G55792 |
| Oxypora egyptensis | Eastern Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. | G55784 |
| Parasimplastrea sheppardi | Sharm al-Sheikh, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. | G55860 |
| Pectinia africanus | Zanzibar, Tanzania. | G55856 |
| Pectinia pygmaeus | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55829 |
| Platygyra acuta | Mahé, Seychelles. | G55845 |
| Platygyra carnosus | Hong Kong. | G55795 |

| Species | Type locality | Holotype Number |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Plerogyra discus | Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. | MSI-3013-CO |
| Plesiastrea devantieri | Socotra. | G55847 |
| Pocillopora effusus | Far eastern Pacific. | G55781 |
| Pocillopora fungiformis | Tuléar, south-west Madagascar. | G55816 |
| Pocillopora indiania | North-west Madagascar. | G55812 |
| Pocillopora kelleheri | Great Barrier Reef, north-east Australia. | G55779 |
| Pocillopora zelli | Puka Rua, Tuamotu Group, French Polynesia. | G55794 |
| Podabacia lankaensis | Southern Sri Lanka. | G55852 |
| Podabacia sinai | Sharm al-Sheikh, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. | G55793 |
| Porites desilveri | Southern Sri Lanka. | G55853 |
| Porites flavus | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55830 |
| Porites harrisoni | Kuwait. | G55811 |
| Porites napopora | Ashmore Reef, north-west Australia. | WAM Z12914 |
| Porites rugosa | Sulawesi, Indonesia. | G55808 |
| Porites tuberculosa | Flores, Indonesia. | G55804 |
| Poritipora paliformis | Zanzibar, Tanzania. | G55857 |
| Sandalolitha africana | Socotra. | G55848 |
| Seriatopora dendritica | Milne Bay, eastern Papua New Guinea. | G55831 |
| Seriatopora guttatus | Tuléar, south-west Madagascar. | G55814 |
| Stylophora madagascarensis | Tuléar, south-west Madagascar. | G55815 |

Table 1 Place of origin and registration numbers of holotypes. Abbreviations are as follows:

G = Museum of Tropical Queensland, Townsville, Australia.

IGPS = Institute of Geology and Paleontology, Tohoku University, Sendai Japan.

MSI = Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines, Manilla, Philippines.

WAM = Western Australian Museum, Perth, Australia.

ZMA = Zoologisch Museum, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Terminology used in this publication follows earlier taxonomic publications of the author. It should be noted that a simplified terminology was used in *Corals of the World* and alternative terms were used in *Coral ID* where there is a requirement for consistency across all taxa. Terminology of the latter publications is explained in their respective glossaries.

The global geographic basis of this study has repeatedly created biogeographic issues for which the author has found no acceptable solution. The majority of Indo-Pacific species included in *Corals of the World*, and therefore this volume, are part of, or are inclusive of, wide biogeographic variations in most diagnostic characters. As a result, these species do not occur as taxonomic units that remain reliably distinguishable from other taxonomic units over great geographic distance. This creates taxonomic issues that do not arise in studies confined to a single biogeographic region other than when integrating taxonomic studies in different regions or when creating synonymies. For many individual species or species groups, geographic variation frequently makes some taxonomic decisions (as to what is, or is not, a species) uncertain or arbitrary. This may occur when species are sympartic or not. They also create biogeographic variation in the reliability of some characters to indicate distinctions between species. Thus, distinctions between one species and another or between a species and a subspecies may be clear in some regions and merge in others. The issues that may arise are summarised in Veron (in press).

Family Acroporidae Verrill, 1902

Genus Montipora Blainville, 1830

Montipora delicatula Veron, 2000

Original description: Veron (2000) Volume 1, pages 70-1.

Characters: Colonies are composed of very thin unifacial laminae which are usually contorted. Corallites are inconspicuous, in rows between coenosteum ridges. Coenosteum ridges are irregular. **Colour:** Pale brown, becoming paler towards colony margins. Coenosteum ridges are usually pale. **Similar species:** *Montipora florida*. See also *M. hodgsoni*. **Habitat:** Restricted to shallow reef edges. **Abundance:** Uncommon.

Previous illustrations:

Veron (2000) Volume 1, pages 70-1, figures 1-4, colour photographs of living coral and page 70, drawing of coral skeleton.

Synonymy:

Montipora pulcherrima Bernard, 1897: Nemenzo (1976), not Bernard (1897) Montipora sp. 2: Veron and Hodgson (1989) Montipora delicatula Veron, 2000: Veron (2002), Fenner (2002)

Montipora pulcherrima Bernard, 1897 is a junior synonym of *Montipora foliosa* (Pallas, 1766), as is a wide range of other nominal species of Bernard (1897) from the South China Sea and Crossland (1952) from the Great Barrier Reef (Veron and Wallace, 1984).

Skeletal detail:

Colonies are whorls or, uncommonly, in irregularly tiers of thin plates. Plates are often irregularly folded or dissected. They are unifacial. Plate margins are not serrated or otherwise ornamented. Corallites are inconspicuous, immersed, approximately 0.5 mm diameter. Septa are in a single order, arranged in comb-rows, made up of tapered irregular dentations averaging 0.5 R. Thecae are developed, inconspicuous. Corallites are restricted between coenosteum ridges and may thus be in irregular rows. Coenosteum ridges are irregular but conspicuous. The coenosteum is very coarse, especially between ridges. Costae are irregular but have coarse spines with elaborated tips.

Affinities:

Montipora foliosa has thicker fronds, larger corallites and relatively contorted coenosteum ridges. Montipora hodgsoni forms smaller, more irregular laminae and has smaller corallites. Coenosteum ridges are less wall-like, had tend to be rows of partly linked tuberculae. These species also tend to have serrated or otherwise ornamented plate margins while those of M. delicatula are mostly smooth. These differences are small making all three species difficult to distinguish unless seen together or collected from very similar habitats. Montipora florida has much less development of coenosteum ridges.

The name:

So named because of the delicate appearance of this coral in the field.

Holotype:

Specimen G55805. The specimen is 110 mm maximum dimension. Collected by the author from low tide level, Raja Ampat Islands, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

Abundance:

Uncommon.

Habitat:

Shallow reef edges protected from wave action and where the water is clear.

Distribution:

The Indonesian-Philippines archipelago.

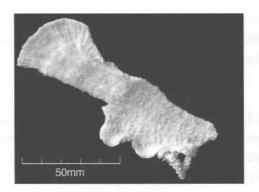


Figure 1. *Montipora delicatula*, holotype (G55805). From the Raja Ampat Islands, Irian Jaya, Indonesia. A piece of one lamina, upper surface.

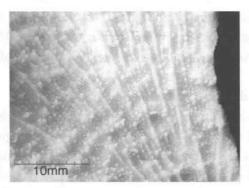


Figure 2. Montipora delicatula, holotype. Frond upper surface showing coenosteum ridges and corallite distribution.

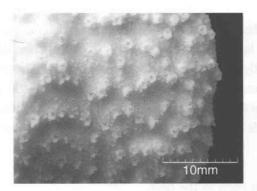


Figure 3. *Montipora delicatula*, holotype. Showing corallites near the base of a frond.

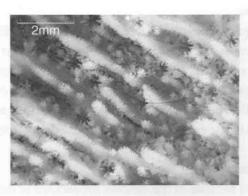


Figure 4. Montipora delicatula, holotype. Corallite and coenosteum detail.

Montipora hodgsoni Veron, 2000

Original description: Veron (2000) Volume 1, page 72.

Characters: Colonies are composed of small, thin, highly dissected unifacial laminae sometimes forming tiers or whorls. Corallites are barely visible among coenosteum ridges which are short and irregular and usually perpendicular to the colony margin. **Colour:** Uniform grey-brown. Polyps are blue (which may photograph purple) or white. **Similar species:** *Montipora foliosa*, and *M. delicatula*, both of which form larger, less irregular plates and have larger corallites. See also *M. friabilis*. **Habitat:** Protected upper reef slopes. **Abundance:** Uncommon.

Previous illustrations:

Veron (2000) Volume 1, page 72, figures 1-4, colour photographs of living coral and drawing coral skeleton.

Synonymy:

Montipora hodgsoni Veron, 2000: Veron and Fenner (2000), Veron (2002)

Skeletal detail:

Colonies are whorls or, uncommonly, in irregularly upright thin plates. Plates are often irregularly folded or dissected. They are unifacial when horizontal or bifacial when upright. Plate margins are serrated, the serrations corresponding to the ends of coenosteum ridges. Corallites are not conspicuous,

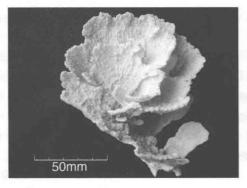


Figure 5. *Montipora hodgsoni*, holotype (MSI-302-CO). From the Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. Part of a tiered colony, upper surface.

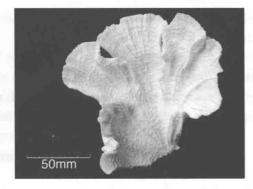


Figure 6. *Montipora hodgsoni*, From the Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines. A frond from a colony from a mid reef slope.

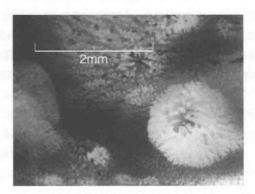


Figure 7. Montipora hodgsoni, holotype. Showing corallite and coenosteum detail.

immersed to clearly exsert, approximately 0.3 mm diameter. Septa are in a single order, arranged in comb-rows, made up of tapered irregular dentations averaging 0.5 R. Thecae are inconspicuous or not visible. Corallites are only slightly restricted between coenosteum ridges and are not aligned in rows. Coenosteum ridges are irregular but conspicuous. Tuberculae are distributed between the ridges. The coenosteum is moderately coarse except on ridges where it is fine. Costae are irregular but mostly smooth-edged.

Affinities:

Montipora foliosa forms larger colonies which are less irregular. Corallites are larger and coenosteum ridges are more uniform. Montipora delicatula also forms larger, less irregular colonies, with larger corallites. These differences are small making these species difficult to distinguish unless seen together or collected from very similar habitats. Montipora friabilis does not have conspicuous coenosteum ridges, but may have a nearly identical growth form. The coenosteum of M. hodgsoni is finer than these three species.

The name:

Named after Dr Gregor Hodgson who worked with the author on corals throughout much of the Philippines.

Holotype:

Specimen MSI-3012-CO. The specimen is 128 mm maximum dimension. Collected by the author from 2 m depth, Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines.

Abundance:

Generally uncommon, but frequently encountered in preferred habitat.

Habitat:

Upper reef slopes protected from strong wave action where the water is clear and species diversity at least moderately high.

Distribution:

Papua New Guinea and the Indonesian-Philippines archipelago..

Montipora vietnamensis Veron, 2000

Original description: Veron (2000) Volume 1, page 84-5.

Characters: Colonies have an encrusting or laminar base, with closely compacted short upright branches. Coenosteum ridges are mostly vertical but may be irregular. Corallites are large and prominent. **Colour:** Dark brown, usually with white coenosteum ridges and branch tips. **Similar species:** *Montipora confusa* has larger, more prominent coenosteum ridges and smaller corallites. Underwater, colour differences are distinctive. See also *M. undata*. **Habitat:** Shallow reef environments and rocky foreshores. **Abundance:** Uncommon but distinctive.

Previous illustrations:

Veron (2000) Volume 1, page 84-5, figures 1-4, colour photographs of living coral and page 84, drawing of coral skeleton.

Synonymy:

None.

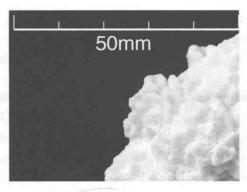


Figure 8. *Montipora vietnamensis*, holotype (G55858). From Nha Trang Vietnam. Piece from a large colony, upper surface.

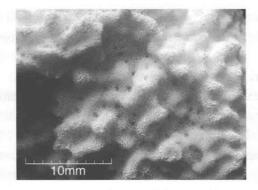


Figure 9. Montipora vietnamensis, holotype. Colony surface showing coenosteum ridges and corallite distribution.

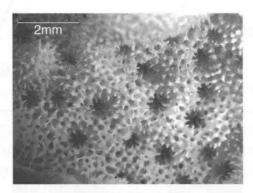


Figure 10. *Montipora vietnamensis*, holotype. Showing corallite and coenosteum detail.

The holotype of *Montipora confusa* Nemenzo, 1967 is atypical of this species (having been collected from a habitat exposed to strong wave action) and is closer to the present species than is usual for coralla of either species collected from their normal habitat. The holotype of *Montipora contorta* Nemenzo and Montecillo, 1981, is an encrusting plate with a single upright branch. It is a junior synonym of *M. confusa*, but closely resembles the present species

Skeletal detail:

Colonies are flat plates with vertical branches. The plates are mostly encrusting or attached but typically have free unifacial margins. They are commonly more than 1 meter diameter and sometimes more than 2 metres. Central areas are commonly more than 5 mm thick, margins are thin. Margins frequently form tiers over older parts of the colony. Branches occur centrally in small colonies and are uniformly dispersed over larger colonies. They are usually flattened, tapered, and irregularly divide. Corallites average 0.7 mm diameter. Thecae are weakly developed to absent. Septa are in one irregular order. They consist entirely of inwardly projecting irregular, tapered spines forming comb rows. They are about 0.7 R. Corallites mostly occur between coenosteum ridges. Coenosteum ridges occur on plates perpendicular to the margins and subvertically on branches, the latter interconnected to form rectangular or flame-shaped cells. The coenosteum is uniform and very coarse. Coenosteum spines usually have elaborated tips.

Affinities:

Montipora confusa has larger upright branches, more distinctive coenosteum ridges and smaller corallites. These differences were thought to be geographic differences until the two species were found together in the Philippines. *Montipora undata* is less similar, forming vertical columns rather than spires. Corallites are larger and the coenosteum much finer.

The name:

Named after the country of Vietnam, where this species is most common.

Holotype:

Specimen G55858. The specimen is 84 mm maximum dimension. Collected by the author from approximately 12 m depth, Nha Trang, Vietnam.

Abundance:

Generally uncommon, but sometimes abundant in localised areas.

Habitat:

Shallow reef slopes protected from strong wave action. Found on rocky foreshores in Vietnam.

Distribution:

The Indonesian-Philippines archipelago.and Vietnam.

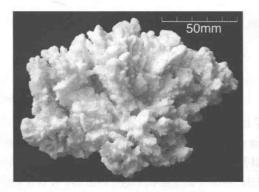


Figure 11. *Montipora saudii*, holotype (G55842). From the northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. Piece from a large colony, upper surface.

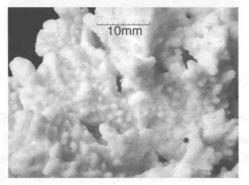


Figure 12. Montipora saudii, holotype. Colony surface showing coenosteum tuberculae and corallite distribution.

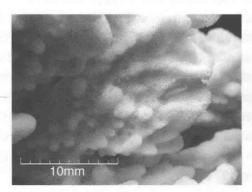


Figure 13. Montipora saudii, holotype. Surface detail.

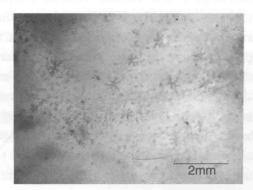


Figure 14. Montipora saudii, holotype. Corallite and coenosteum detail.

Montipora saudii Turak, DeVantier and Veron, 2000

Original description: Veron (2000) Volume 1, page 92.

Characters: Colonies are extensive upright to prostrate laminae and may also be encrusting. The colony surface is covered by elongate tuberculae which hide the corallites from view. The tuberculae are upwardly inclined on upright laminae. The coenosteum is coarse. **Colour:** Grey with pale tips to tuberculae. **Similar species:** *Montipora circumvallata*, which has finer branches. **Habitat:** Shallow reef environments. **Abundance:** Common.

Previous illustrations:

Veron (2000) Volume 1, page 92, figures 1, 2, colour photographs of living coral and drawing of coral skeleton.

Synonymy:

None.

Skeletal detail:

Colonies may be more than 1 metre diameter and are composed of flat encrusting basal parts which may become submassive. Colonies have irregular upgrowths which may become branch-like. The colony surface is covered with tuberculae averaging approximately 2 mm in diameter and up to 4 mm in length. Tuberculae are irregularly scattered except towards branch-like formations where they may be partly fused or aligned subvertically. Corallites are immersed and hidden between the tuberculae. They are approximately 0.4 mm diameter and have septa of irregular length and thickness. The larger septa reach 0.8 R.

Affinities:

Montipora circumvallata has similar development of tuberculae but these are strongly aligned in ridges down the sides of branches. Montipora pachytuberculata and M. echinata (see below for both species) have very elongate papillae rather than tuberculae and are less like this species which are similar and appear to be Red Sea endemics.

The name:

Named after the country of Saudi Arabia, the only country where this species has been so far recorded.

Holotype:

Specimen G55842. The specimen is 131 mm maximum dimension. Collected by Emre Turak from approximately 2 m depth, northern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia.

Abundance:

Generally common in preferred habitat.

Habitat:

Upper reef slope exposed to moderate wave action.

Distribution:

Known only from the Red Sea.