

STAGHORN CORAL

Acropora muricata
Linnaeus, 1758



PIERRE DE CHABANNES

CLASSIFICATION

Class: Anthozoa

Order: Scleractinia

Family: Acroporidae

No recognized subspecies



APPENDIX II

COMMON



NEAR THREATENED (as *A. formosa*)

Identification : Colonies are arborescent and can grow up to 10 meters across. Cylindrical branches with well visible tubular polyp structures. Branches are compact in shallow waters, less so in deeper waters. Coloration greenish to cream or brown.

Range: Indo-Pacific from Red Sea to South Africa, east to French Polynesia.

Habitat : Occurs on reef slopes and fringes but mostly in lagoons, in turbid waters and strong-current areas, at variable depth as long as sunlight can reach them.

Behavior: Polyps feed on zooplankton and products from their zooxanthellae. Dominant species on reefs.

Status in the wild: *Acropora* corals are very sensitive to changes in their environment and the effects of global warming and water pollution are enough to kill entire colonies. The species is threatened by habitat and water quality degradation.

In captivity: The commonest species of its genus in captivity, both in private and public collections around the world. Species propagated by fragging, no breeding.