

# LARGE BRAIN ROOT CORAL

*Lobophyllia hemprichii*

Ehrenberg, 1834



PIERRE DE CHABANNES

## CLASSIFICATION

**Class:** Anthozoa

**Order:** Scleractinia

**Family:** Lobophylliidae

No recognized subspecies



APPENDIX II

FAIRLY COMMON



## LEAST CONCERN

**Identification** : Colonies are usually flat and can reach more than 5 meters across. Polyps are very fleshy, with living tissue being either smooth or warty. Coloration highly variable but can be quite bright. Polyps from same colony have same aspect.

**Range** : The species occurs in the Indo-Pacific region, from Red Sea and East Africa to South Japan, Great Barrier Reef and east to Polynesia.

**Habitat** : Mostly found on upper reef slopes, at depths from 9 to 50 meters.

**Behavior** : Polyps feed on zooplankton and products from their zooxanthellae. Can be a dominant species on reefs. Tentacles are extended at night only.

**Status in the wild** : The species is sometimes common but climatic changes leading to acidification and warming of water is a serious threat for stony corals in general.

**In captivity** : By far the commonest species of its genus, being uncommon in public aquariums around the world and very often sold in specialized shops for private keepers. The species is only bred by fragging in captivity.