

TRUE CORAL

Dendrophyllia ramea

Linnaeus, 1758



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Anthozoa

Order: Scleractinia

Family: Dendrophylliidae

No recognized subspecies



APPENDIX II

VERY RARE



VULNERABLE

Identification : Polyps can grow up to 5 cm in length. Colonies can be more than 35 cm wide. Tube or chalice-like stony structure, usually yellow to orange with white to clear yellow polyp tentacles.

Range: North-East Atlantic Ocean, south to North Africa and Mediterranean Sea.

Habitat : Rocky habitat on edge of continental shelf and near coasts, usually below 30 meters.

Behavior: The species only survives in cold waters (below 14°C) which are nutrient rich. Feeds on zooplankton.

Status in the wild: This species is threatened by global warming and pollution of waters near coasts.

In captivity: The tropical members of this genus and related *Tubastrea* are commoner in captivity. This species is very rare in captivity and only known from one or two collections in Europe. Probably absent elsewhere. Not bred in captivity.