Biodiversity Data Journal 12: e120128
doi: 10.3897/BDJ.12.e120128

Taxonomy & Inventories

An underwater imagery identification guide for shallow, mesophotic and deep-sea benthos in Maldives

Farah Amjad[‡], Mohamed Ahusan[§], Hana Amir[§,|], Nina M de Villiers[‡], Erika Gress[¶], Christopher L Mah[#], Shafiya Naeem[§], Nuria Rico-Seijo[‡], Toufiek Samaai[¤], Maryiam S Afzal[«], Lucy C Woodall[»,‡], Paris V Stefanoudis[‡]

‡ Nekton Foundation, Oxford, United Kingdom
§ Maldives Marine Research Institute, Male, Maldives
| Bangor University, Wales, United Kingdom
¶ James Cook University, Townsville, Australia
# Smithsonian Institution, Washington, United States of America
¤ Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, Cape Town, South Africa
« University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan
» University of Exeter, Exeter, United Kingdom

Corresponding author: Paris V Stefanoudis (paris@nektonmission.org)

Academic editor: Danwei Huang

Received: 02 Feb 2024 | Accepted: 07 May 2024 | Published: 18 Jun 2024

Citation: Amjad F, Ahusan M, Amir H, de Villiers N, Gress E, Mah C, Naeem S, Rico-Seijo N, Samaai T, Afzal M, Woodall L, Stefanoudis P (2024) An underwater imagery identification guide for shallow, mesophotic and deep-sea benthos in Maldives. Biodiversity Data Journal 12: e120128. https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.12.e120128

Abstract

Background

During the 2022 Nekton Maldives Mission, we deployed a variety of platforms (snorkelling, remotely-operated vehicles and manned submersibles) to conduct video surveys of the biodiversity and composition of shallow (< 30 m), mesophotic (30-150 m) and deep-sea (> 150 m) benthos found in the Maldives' central and southern atolls. In total, ~ 80 hrs of stereo-video footage were collected during the benthic transect surveys, which were subsequently processed using annotation software in order to evaluate benthic biodiversity and community composition. Here, we present a photographic guide for the visual, *in situ* identification of reef benthos encountered, including corals, sponges and other

invertebrates that inhabit Maldives' nearshore habitats. We hope that this identification guide will aid future imagery-based surveys or observations of organisms during fieldwork.

New information

A total of 283 morphotypes were identified, including those belonging to Octocorallia (61), Scleractinia (57), Porifera (38), Asteroidea (22), Antipatharia (15), Decapoda (13), Hydrozoa (12), Holothuroidea (10), Actiniaria (9), Echinoidea (8), Annelida (6), Chlorophyta (5), Gastropoda (4), Bivalvia (4), Ascidiacea (3), Crinoidea (3), Bryozoa (2), Cyanobacteria (2), Zoantharia (2), Cephalopoda (1), Ceriantharia (1), Corallimorpharia (1), Ctenophora (1), Ophiuroidea (1), Rhodophyta (1) and to an unknown category (1). Out of these, we identified 40 to species level, 120 to genus, 47 to family, 14 to order and suborder, 58 to class and subclass, two to phylum and one was of unknown phylum. This represents the first attempt to catalogue the mesophotic and deep-sea benthic megafaunal diversity in the Maldives using underwater imagery.

Keywords

coral reefs, mesophotic coral ecosystems, deep-sea, benthos, morphotype, Maldives, Indian Ocean

Introduction

Coral reefs in the Maldives are of global significance due to their rich biodiversity (Spalding et al. 2001) and commercially important fisheries species that they support including groupers (Sattar et al. 2011), sea cucumbers (MEE 2017) and a variety of aquarium fish (Saleem and Islam 2008). Previous marine research and monitoring efforts in the Maldives have primarily focused on waters accessible by SCUBA (i.e. < 30 m) (MEE 2017), thus there is little information on deeper communities, including mesophotic coral ecosystems (30-150 m) and deep-sea (> 150 m) habitats.

These deeper environments provide a suite of benefits to humans, including coastal protection, fisheries and nursery grounds (Holstein et al. 2019). In addition, they have unique biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (Stefanoudis et al. 2023) and, hence, warrant protection in their own right. Despite being less accessible to most humans, these ecosystems are nevertheless affected by the consequences of anthropogenic activities, including plastic pollution (Pinheiro et al. 2023), thermal stress (Diaz et al. 2023a) and fishing (Soares et al. 2018).

Expanding knowledge of habitats below 30 m in the Maldives is crucial for making informed decisions about sustainable management. The Nekton Maldives Mission directly addressed that knowledge gap by investigating shallow (< 30 m), mesophotic coral ecosystems (30-150 m) and deeper habitats (> 150 m) in the Maldives, documenting

biological communities, diversity and associated environmental conditions. From this exploratory work, this Field Identification Guide provides documentation and descriptions of a variety of benthic taxa that occur beyond the depths accessible to SCUBA divers.

Materials and methods

The Nekton Maldives Mission took place between 4 September and 6 October 2022 onboard the *RV Odyssey*. In total, six coral atolls and a seamount across the central and southern Maldives Archipelago were investigated (Fig. 1) using a combination of video surveys, biological sample collection, water chemistry measurements and bathymetry (Ahusan et al. 2023). Due to poor weather conditions, only a subset of surveys were made in one site (Fuvahmulah) and solely multibeam data and environmental DNA data in another site (seamount *Satho Raha*).

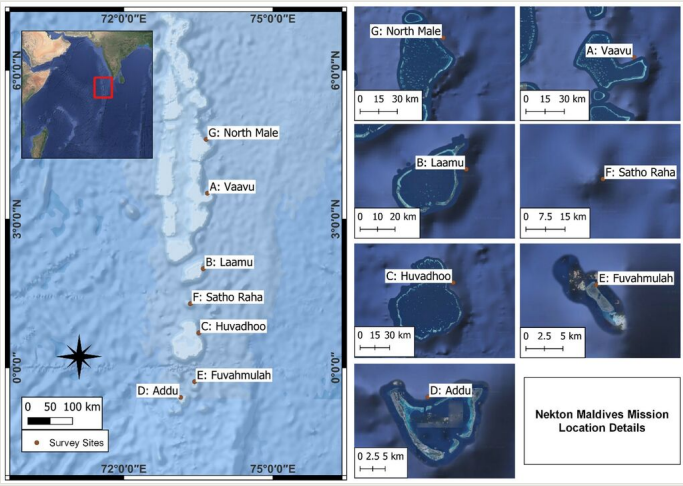

Figure 1. doi

Survey sites investigated during the 2022 Nekton Maldives Mission (taken from Ahusan et al. 2023).

The video-based transect surveys, which are the focus of this contribution, were conducted by snorkellers (2 m), remotely-operated vehicles (ROVs) (~ 10 and 30 m) and manned submersibles (~ 60, 120, 250 and 500 m) using stereo-video camera systems to record benthic biodiversity. Paralenz Dive and Paralenz Vaquita cameras were used for surveys between 2 and 30 m and Teledyne Marine's L3C-HD for deeper surveys, all recording at a minimum resolution of 1920 × 1080 pixels and a frame rate of 60 fps. Two to three replicate video transect surveys were conducted at each depth contour at each site (except for Fuvahmulah), each 250 m long. During all surveys, a constant altitude of 1-2 m above the seabed was aimed to allow for sufficient overlap between the stereo cameras yet staying close enough to the bottom to maximise the taxonomic resolution of the organisms observed.

Samples of the most common benthic organisms, typically octocorals, black corals or sponges, were collected to verify taxonomic identifications of video-based biodiversity surveys. Each sample was given a unique ID number and subsamples preserved in 98% ethanol were stored in fridges and subsamples in RNAlater stored at room temperature and later in the fridges.

All collected video footage was screened during and after the expedition to create image-based taxon lists. Together with the collected specimens, these were then reviewed during a taxonomic workshop that took place in the Maldives in February 2023 to verify identifications with taxonomic experts (Ahusan et al. 2023). Subsequent imagery annotation to derive biodiversity and other community metrics will comprise a separate publication (in prep).

Data resources

Authors' note

This guide has been designed to aid in the identification of benthic organisms as they are seen *in situ*. As such, it will be of great assistance to marine professionals observing these organisms in their natural habitat during fieldwork and to researchers annotating imagery-based datasets. Similar efforts for the Indian Ocean include field identification guides for Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021), Chagos (Diaz et al. 2023b) and Comoros (in prep.).

Given that some morphological features required for positive taxonomic identification are not visible through imagery alone and often require further *ex-situ* examination, assigning observed organisms to species level is not always possible. In fact, it is common practice to place observed organisms into ‘morphotypes’ or ‘morphospecies’ that are morphologically similar organisms that could represent a species, genus or higher-level classification (Howell et al. 2019, Fassbender et al. 2021).

Based on this work, we provide the lowest possible taxonomic identification from imagery alone and information on distribution, depth range and size (i.e. length across longest dimension) for each morphotype entry. Size represents the average length from all measured colonies/individuals during image annotation of collected data (Stefanoudis et al., in prep.). Note that size was not possible to estimate for some morphotypes that are difficult to count, such as some encrusting and stoloniferous forms (e.g. algae, some sponges). We also provide a short morphological description as observed from the video footage and some representative *in situ* images. Additional *ex situ* images of collected specimens are also provided where available, whose names comprise "MAL_" and a numerical number following the naming conventions during the Nekton Maldives Mission. These are typically identified to a lower taxonomic level (e.g. species or genus) than the morphotype entry they are assigned since they were examined in the laboratory post-expedition. Note that they are not assigned to a different entry since, from underwater footage alone, they are unlikely to have been identified to this fine taxonomic level.

To allow for inter-comparability of Indian Ocean benthic communities between locations, we use the same morphotype names for shared morphotypes found in the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021) and Maldives.

How to use the Guide

All morphotypes that have been observed are classified into 18 main classification groups, with categories ranging from phylum to order. The selection of the taxonomic level for each main group is in accordance with the classification widely used in the field by experts and the general public (e.g. Phylum Porifera for sponges or Order Antipatharia for black corals etc.). Individuals of each major group are categorised into the lowest taxonomic level possible and allocated morphotypes. Table 1 summarises all 281 morphotypes identified.

Table 1.

List of the 283 morphotypes observed in shallow and deeper reef habitats in the Seychelles during the Nekton Maldives Mission 2022 expedition. Open nomenclature (ON) signs applicable to image-based faunal analyses (e.g. indet., stet., inc.), as suggested by Horton et al. (2021), are also provided in the cases where species-level identification was not possible.

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Cyanobacteria					Cyanobacteria stet. sp. 1
Cyanobacteria					Cyanobacteria stet. sp. 2
Chlorophyta	Ulvophyceae	Bryopsidales	Caulerpaceae	*Caulerpa*	*Caulerpa* sp. indet. 1
Chlorophyta	Ulvophyceae	Bryopsidales	Caulerpaceae	*Caulerpa*	*Caulerpa serrulata* sp. inc.
Chlorophyta	Ulvophyceae	Bryopsidales	Halimedaceae	*Halimeda*	*Halimeda* sp. indet.
Chlorophyta	Ulvophyceae	Bryopsidales	Halimedaceae	*Halimeda*	*Halimeda micronesica*
Chlorophyta	Ulvophyceae	Bryopsidales	Udoteaceae	*Tydemania*	*Tydemania expeditionis*
Rhodophyta	Florideophyceae	Corallinales			Corallinales stet.
Porifera	Demospongiae	Clionaida	Clionaidae	*Spheciospongia*	*Spheciospongia* sp. indet. 4
Porifera	Demospongiae	Clionaida	Clionaidae	*Spheciospongia*	*Spheciospongia* sp. indet. 5
Porifera	Demospongiae	Clionaida	Clionaidae	*Spheciospongia*	*Spheciospongia excentrica*

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Porifera	Demospongiae	Dictyoceratida	Thorectidae	*Phyllospongia*	*Phyllospongia foliascens*
Porifera	Demospongiae	Haplosclerida	Callyspongiidae	*Callyspongia*	*Callyspongia* sp. indet. 1
Porifera	Demospongiae	Haplosclerida	Petrosiidae		Petrosiidae gen. indet. sp. 3
Porifera	Demospongiae	Petrosiidae	Petrosiidae	*Petrosia*	*Petrosia* sp. indet. 1
Porifera	Demospongiae	Petrosiidae	Petrosiidae	*Petrosia* (*Strongylophora*)	*Petrosia* (*Strongylophora*) sp. indet. 2
Porifera	Demospongiae	Haplosclerida	Chalinidae	*Haliclona*	*Haliclona* sp. indet. 15
Porifera	Demospongiae	Haplosclerida	Chalinidae	*Haliclona*	*Haliclona* sp. indet. 16
Porifera	Demospongiae	Haplosclerida	Chalinidae	*Haliclona*	*Haliclona* sp. indet. 17
Porifera	Demospongiae	Haplosclerida	Chalinidae	*Haliclona*	*Haliclona* sp. indet. 18
Porifera	Demospongiae	Haplosclerida	Chalinidae	*Haliclona*	*Haliclona* sp. indet. 19
Porifera	Demospongiae	Suberitida	Suberitidae	*Suberites*	*Suberites* sp. indet. 3
Porifera	Demospongiae	Suberitida	Suberitidae	*Rhizaxinella*	*Rhizaxinella ramulosa* sp. inc.
Porifera	Homoscleromorpha	Homosclerophorida	Plakinidae	*Plakortis*	*Plakortis* sp. indet. 3
Porifera	Demospongiae	Poecilosclerida	Iotrochotidae	*Iotrochota*	*Iotrochota nigra*
Porifera	Demospongiae	Poecilosclerida	Microcionidae	*Clathria*	*Clathria* sp. indet. 1
Porifera	Demospongiae	Scopalinida	Scopalinidae	*Stylissa*	*Stylissa carteri*
Porifera	Demospongiae	Tetractinellida	Ancorinidae	*Stelletta*	*Stelletta* sp. indet. 2
Porifera	Demospongiae	Tetractinellida	Corallistidae	*Corallistes*	*Corallistes* sp. indet. 2
Porifera	Demospongiae	Tetractinellida	Geodiidae	*Geodia*	*Geodia* sp. indet. 3
Porifera	Demospongiae	Tetractinellida	Geodiidae	*Geodia*	*Geodia* sp. indet. 4
Porifera	Demospongiae	Tetractinellida	Pachastrellidae	*Pachastrella*	*Pachastrella* sp. indet. 1
Porifera	Demospongiae				Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 1
Porifera	Demospongiae				Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 2

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Porifera	Demospongiae				Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 3
Porifera	Demospongiae				Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 4
Porifera	Demospongiae				Demospongiae ord. sp. indet. 16
Porifera	Demospongiae				Demospongiae ord. sp. indet. 17
Porifera	Demospongiae				Demospongiae ord. sp. indet. 18
Porifera	Demospongiae				Demospongiae ord. sp. indet. 19
Porifera	Hexactinellida	Amphidiscosida	Hyalonematidae	*Hyalonema*	*Hyalonema* (*Paradisconema*) *alcocki*
Porifera	Hexactinellida	Amphidiscosida	Pheronematidae	*Semperella*	*Semperella cucumis*
Porifera	Hexactinellida	Sceptrulophora	Farreidae	*Farrea*	*Farrea* sp. indet. 1
Porifera	Hexactinellida	Sceptrulophora	Farreidae	*Farrea*	*Farrea* sp. indet. 2
Porifera	Hexactinellida	Sceptrulophora	Euretidae	*Pleurochorium*	*Pleurochorium annandalei*
Porifera	Hexactinellida				Hexactinellida ord. indet. sp. 1
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Actiniaria	Stichodactylidae	*Radianthus*	*Radianthus magnifica*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Actiniaria	Heteractidae	*Heteractis*	*Heteractis aurora*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Actiniaria	Stichodactylidae	*Stichodactyla*	*Stichodactyla mertensii*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Actiniaria			Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Actiniaria			Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 4
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Actiniaria			Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 5

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Actiniaria			Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 6
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Actiniaria			Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 7
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Actiniaria			Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 8
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Acroporidae	*Acropora*	*Acropora* sp. indet. 1
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Acroporidae	*Acropora*	*Acropora* sp. indet. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Acroporidae	*Acropora*	*Acropora* sp. indet. 3
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Acroporidae	*Acropora*	*Acropora* sp. indet. 4
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Acroporidae	*Acropora*	*Acropora* sp. indet. 5
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Acroporidae	*Acropora*	*Acropora* sp. indet. 6
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Acroporidae	*Acropora*	*Acropora* sp. indet. 7
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Acroporidae	*Astreopora*	*Astreopora* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Acroporidae	*Montipora*	*Montipora* sp. indet. 1
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Acroporidae	*Montipora*	*Montipora* sp. indet. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Agariciidae	*Gardineroseris*	*Gardineroseris planulata*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Agariciidae	*Leptoseris*	*Leptoseris* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Agariciidae	*Pavona*	*Pavona varians*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Agariciidae	*Pavona*	*Pavona* sp. indet. 2

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Dendrophylliidae	*Dendrophyllia*	*Dendrophyllia* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Dendrophylliidae	*Tubastraea*	*Tubastraea* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Dendrophylliidae	*Turbinaria*	*Turbinaria* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Dendrophylliidae	*Duncanopsammia*	*Duncanopsammia peltata*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Dendrophylliidae	*Balanophyllia*	*Balanophyllia* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Diploastraeidae	*Diploastrea*	*Diploastrea heliopora*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Euphyllidae	*Galaxea*	*Galaxea* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Faviidae	*Dipsastraea*	*Dipsastraea* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Fungiidae	*Heliofungia actiniformis*	*Heliofungia actiniformis*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Fungiidae		Fungiidae sp. indet. 1
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Fungiidae	*Herpolitha*	*Herpolitha* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Fungiidae	*Halomitra*	*Halomitra* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Fungiidae	*Lithophyllon*	*Lithophyllon undulatum* sp. inc.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Incerta saedis	*Pachyseris*	*Pachyseris rugosa*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Incerta saedis	*Pachyseris*	*Pachyseris speciosa*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Incerta saedis	*Physogyra*	*Physogyra lichtensteini*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Incerta saedis	*Plerogyra*	*Plerogyra sinuosa*

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Incerta saedis	*Plesiastrea*	*Plesiastrea versipora*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Lobophyllidae	*Echinophyllia*	*Echinophyllia* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Lobophyllidae	*Lobophyllia*	*Lobophyllia* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Lobophyllidae	*Oxypora*	*Oxypora crassispinosa*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Merulinidae	*Coelastrea*	*Coelastrea* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Merulinidae	*Echinopora*	*Echinopora* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Merulinidae	*Favites*	*Favites* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Merulinidae	*Goniastrea*	*Goniastrea* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Merulinidae	*Hydnophora*	*Hydnophora* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Merulinidae	*Leptoria*	*Leptoria* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Merulinidae	*Merulina*	*Merulina* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Merulinidae	*Mycedium*	*Mycedium* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Merulinidae	*Oulophyllia*	*Oulophyllia* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Merulinidae	*Paragoniastrea*	*Paragoniastrea russelli* sp. inc.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Merulinidae	*Platygyra*	*Platygyra* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Pocilloporidae	*Madracis*	*Madracis* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Pocilloporidae	*Pocillopora*	*Pocillopora* sp. indet. 1

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Pocilloporidae	*Pocillopora*	*Pocillopora* sp. indet. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Pocilloporidae	*Pocillopora*	*Pocillopora* sp. indet. 3
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Pocilloporidae	*Pocillopora*	*Pocillopora* sp. indet. 4
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Poritidae	*Goniopora*	*Goniopora* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Poritidae	*Porites*	*Porites rus*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Poritidae	*Porites*	*Porites* sp. indet. 1
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Poritidae	*Porites*	*Porites* sp. indet. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Poritidae	*Porites*	*Porites* sp. indet. 3
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Scleractinia	Psammocoridae	*Psammocora*	*Psammocora* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Zoantharia	Sphenopidae	*Palythoa*	*Palythoa tuberculosa*
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Zoantharia	Sphenopidae	*Palythoa*	*Palythoa* sp. indet. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Antipathidae	*Arachnopathes*	*Arachnopathes* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Antipathidae	*Antipathes*	*Antipathes nilanduensis* sp. inc.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Antipathidae	*Antipathes*	*Antipathes* sp. indet. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Antipathidae	*Antipathes*	*Antipathes* sp. indet. 3
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Antipathidae	*Antipathes*	*Antipathes* sp. indet. 4
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Aphanipathidae	*Asteriopathes*	*Asteriopathes* sp. indet.

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Aphanipathidae	*Tetrapathes*	*Tetrapathes* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Schizopathidae	*Bathypathes*	*Bathypathes* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Myriopathidae	*Cupressopathes*	*Cupressopathes* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Myriopathidae	*Myriopathes*	*Myriopathes* sp. indet. 1
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Aphanipathidae	*Pteridopathes*	*Pteridopathes* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Stylopathidae	*Stylopathes*	*Stylopathes* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Schizopathidae	*Parantipathes*	*Parantipathes* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia	Schizopathidae	*Umbellapathes*	*Umbellapathes* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Antipatharia			Antipatharia fam. indet. sp. 7
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Hexacorallia	Corallimorpharia		*Rhodactis*	*Rhodactis* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Astrogorgiidae	*Astrogorgia*	*Astrogorgia* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Melithaeidae	*Melithaea*	*Melithaea* sp. indet. 1
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Melithaeidae	*Melithaea*	*Melithaea* sp. indet. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Nephtheidae	*Dendronephthya*	*Dendronephthya* sp. indet. 1
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Nephtheidae	*Dendronephthya*	*Dendronephthya* sp. indet. 4
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Nephtheidae		Nephtheidae gen. indet. sp. 5
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Nephtheidae	*Scleronephythya*	*Scleronephythya* sp. indet. 2

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Nephtheidae	*Umbellulifera*	*Umbellulifera* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Paramuriceidae		Paramuriceidae gen. indet. sp. 1
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Paramuriceidae	*Acanthogorgia*	*Acanthogorgia* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Plexauridae		Plexauridae gen. indet. sp. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Plexauridae		Plexauridae gen. indet. sp. 9
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Sarcophytidae	*Lobophytum*	*Lobophytum* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Sarcophytidae	*Sarcophyton*	*Sarcophyton* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	*Sinulariidae*		*Sinulariidae* gen. indet. sp. 1
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	*Sinulariidae*		*Sinulariidae* gen. indet. sp. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	*Sinulariidae*		*Sinulariidae* gen. indet. sp. 3
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	*Sinulariidae*		*Sinulariidae* gen. indet. sp. 4
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Siphonogorgiidae	*Chironephthya*	*Chironephthya* sp. indet. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Subergorgiidae		Subergorgiidae sp. indet. 1
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Subergorgiidae	*Annella*	*Annella* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea	Subergorgiidae	*Subergorgia*	*Subergorgia* sp. indet. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Malacalcyonacea			Malacalcyonacea fam. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Ellisellidae	*Ellisella*	*Ellisella* sp. indet.

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Ellisellidae	*Nicella*	*Nicella* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Ellisellidae		Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Ellisellidae		Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 4
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Ellisellidae		Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 5
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Ellisellidae		Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 6
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Ellisellidae		Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 8
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Ellisellidae		Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 9
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Helioporidae	*Heliopora*	*Heliopora* sp. indet.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Pennatuloidea		Pennatuloidea gen. indet. sp.
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Primnoidae		Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 1
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Primnoidae		Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 2
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Primnoidae		Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 3
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Primnoidae		Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 4
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia	Scleralcyonacea	Primnoidae		Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 5
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 3
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 4
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 5

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 6
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 7
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 8
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 9
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 10
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 11
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 12
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 13
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 14
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 15
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 18
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 19
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 20
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 21
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 22
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 24
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 25

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 27
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 29
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Octocorallia				Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 31
Cnidaria	Anthozoa-Ceriantharia				Ceriantharia stet.
Cnidaria	Hydrozoa	Anthoathecata	Milleporidae	*Millepora*	*Millepora* sp. indet. 1
Cnidaria	Hydrozoa	Anthoathecata	Milleporidae	*Millepora*	*Millepora* sp. indet. 2
Cnidaria	Hydrozoa	Anthoathecata	Milleporidae	*Millepora*	*Millepora* sp. indet. 3
Cnidaria	Hydrozoa	Anthoathecata	Stylasteridae	*Crypthelia*	*Crypthelia* gen. indet. sp.
Cnidaria	Hydrozoa	Anthoathecata	Stylasteridae		Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 4
Cnidaria	Hydrozoa	Anthoathecata	Stylasteridae		Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 5
Cnidaria	Hydrozoa	Anthoathecata	Stylasteridae		Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 6
Cnidaria	Hydrozoa	Anthoathecata	Stylasteridae		Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 7
Cnidaria	Hydrozoa	Anthoathecata	Stylasteridae		Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 8
Cnidaria	Hydrozoa				Hydrozoa ord. indet. sp. 1
Cnidaria	Hydrozoa				Hydrozoa ord. indet. sp. 4
Cnidaria	Hydrozoa				Hydrozoa ord. indet. sp. 5
Ctenophora	Tentaculata	Platyctenida	Lyroctenidae	*Lyrocteis*	*Lyrocteis* sp. indet.
Mollusca	Bivalvia	Cardiida	Cardiidae	*Tridacna*	*Tridacna* sp. indet.
Mollusca	Bivalvia				Bivalvia ord. indet. sp. 1
Mollusca	Bivalvia				Bivalvia ord. indet. sp. 2

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Mollusca	Bivalvia				Bivalvia ord. indet. sp. 3
Mollusca	Cephalopoda	Octopoda			Octopoda fam. indet. sp.
Mollusca	Gastropoda	Littorinimorpha	Strombidae		Strombidae gen. indet. sp. 1
Mollusca	Gastropoda	Littorinimorpha	Strombidae		Strombidae gen. indet. sp. 2
Mollusca	Gastropoda	Neogastropoda	Conoidea		Conoidea gen. indet. sp.
Mollusca	Gastropoda	Neogastropoda	Muricidae	*Drupella*	*Drupella* sp. indet.
Annelida	Polychaeta				Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 1
Annelida	Polychaeta				Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 2
Annelida	Polychaeta				Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 3
Annelida	Polychaeta				Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 4
Annelida	Polychaeta				Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 5
Annelida	Polychaeta-Echiura				Echiura ord. indet. sp.
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda	Galatheoidea		Galatheoidea gen. indet. sp.
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda	Chirostyloidea		Chirostyloidea gen. indet. sp. 1
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda	Chirostyloidea		Chirostyloidea gen. indet. sp. 2
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda	Leucosiidae		Leucosiidae gen. indet. sp.
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda	Munidopsidae		Munidopsidae gen. indet. sp.
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda	Mithracidae		Mithracidae gen. indet. sp.
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda	Homolidae		Homolidae gen. indet. sp.

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda	Paguroidea	*Paguropsis*	*Paguropsis confusa*
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda	Aristeidae		Aristeidae gen. indet. sp.
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda-Brachyura	Xanthidae		Xanthidae gen. indet. sp.
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda-Brachyura	Calappidae		Calappidae gen. indet. sp.
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda-Brachyura	Geryonidae		Geryonidae gen. indet. sp.
Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda-Caridea			Caridea fam. indet. sp.
Bryozoa					Bryozoa clas. indet. sp. 1
Bryozoa	Gymnolaemata	Cheilostomatida	Cellariidae	*Cellaria*	*Cellaria* sp. indet.
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Brisingida	Brisingidae		Brisingidae gen. indet. sp.
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Forcipulatida	Asteriidae	*Sclerasterias*	*Sclerasterias* sp. indet.
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Paxillosida	Astropectinidae	*Persephonaster*	*Persephonaster* sp. indet.
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Paxillosida	Astropectinidae		Astropectinidae gen. indet. sp. 1
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Paxillosida	Astropectinidae		Astropectinidae gen. indet. sp. 2
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Spinulosida	Echinasteridae	*Echinaster*	*Echinaster luzonicus*
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Asterinidae	*Anseropoda*	*Anseropoda* sp. indet.
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Asterinidae	*Paranepanthia*	*Paranepanthia* sp. indet.
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Asterinidae	*Tremaster*	*Tremaster mirabilis*
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Asterinidae		Asterinidae gen. indet. sp.
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Goniasteridae	*Mediaster*	*Mediaster* sp. indet.
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Goniasteridae	*Ceramaster*	*Ceramaster* sp. indet.
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Goniasteridae	*Sphaeriodiscus*	*Sphaeriodiscus* sp. indet.

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Goniasteridae	*Nymphaster*	*Nymphaster* sp. indet.
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Goniasteridae		Goniasteridae gen. indet. sp. 4
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Goniasteridae	*Fromia*	*Fromia monilis*
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Oreasteridae	*Astrosarkus*	*Astrosarkus idipi*
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Oreasteridae	*Choriaster*	*Choriaster granulatus*
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Oreasteridae	*Culcita*	*Culcita schmideliana*
Echinodermata	Asteroidea	Valvatida	Ophidiasteridae	*Linckia*	*Linckia* sp. indet.
Echinodermata	Asteroidea				Asteroidea ord. indet. sp. 5
Echinodermata	Asteroidea				Asteroidea ord. indet. sp. 6
Echinodermata	Ophiuroidea				Ophiuroidea stet.
Echinodermata	Crinoidea				Crinoidea ord. indet. sp. 1
Echinodermata	Crinoidea				Crinoidea ord. indet. sp. 2
Echinodermata	Crinoidea				Crinoidea ord. indet. sp. 3
Echinodermata	Echinoidea	Micropygoida	Micropygidae	*Micropyga*	*Micropyga* sp. indet.
Echinodermata	Echinoidea	Cidaroida			Cidaroida fam. indet. sp. 1
Echinodermata	Echinoidea	Cidaroida			Cidaroida fam. indet. sp. 2
Echinodermata	Echinoidea	Clypeasteroida	Clypeasteridae	*Clypeaster*	*Clypeaster* sp. indet.
Echinodermata	Echinoidea	Diadematoida	Diadematidae	*Echinothrix*	*Echinothrix diadema*
Echinodermata	Echinoidea				Echinoidea ord. indet. sp. 1
Echinodermata	Echinoidea				Echinoidea ord. indet. sp. 2
Echinodermata	Echinoidea	Spatangoida			Spatangoida fam. indet. sp.

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	(Morpho)Species Scientific Name with ON signs
Echinodermata	Holothuroidea	Holothuriida	Holothuriidae	*Holothuria*	*Holothuria atra*
Echinodermata	Holothuroidea	Holothuriida	Holothuriidae	*Holothuria*	*Holothuria edulis*
Echinodermata	Holothuroidea	Holothuriida	Holothuriidae	*Pearsonothuria*	*Pearsonothuria graeffei*
Echinodermata	Holothuroidea				Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 3
Echinodermata	Holothuroidea				Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 4
Echinodermata	Holothuroidea				Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 5
Echinodermata	Holothuroidea				Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 6
Echinodermata	Holothuroidea				Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 7
Echinodermata	Holothuroidea				Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 8
Echinodermata	Holothuroidea				Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 9
Chordata-Tunicata	Ascidiacea	Aplousobranchia	Didemnidae	*Didemnum*	*Didemnum molle*
Chordata-Tunicata	Ascidiacea				Ascidiacea ord. indet. sp. 1
Chordata-Tunicata	Ascidiacea				Ascidiacea ord. indet. sp. 2
Unknown					Unknown sp. indet. 1

Taxon treatments

Cyanobacteria stet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Cyanobacteria sp. 1; kingdom: Bacteria; phylum: Cyanobacteria; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR

Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Orange to brown encrusting mats with fuzzy appearance (Fig. 2).

Figure 2. doi

Cyanobacteria stet. sp. 1, Laamu, 30 m.

Cyanobacteria stet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Cyanobacteria sp. 2; kingdom: Bacteria; phylum: Cyanobacteria; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Dark green to brown encrusting mats with fuzzy appearance (Fig. 3).

Caulerpa sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Caulerpa* sp. 1; kingdom: Plantae; phylum: Chlorophyta; class: Ulvophyceae; order: Bryopsidales; family: Caulerpaceae; genus: *Caulerpa*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission;

samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Figure 3. doi

Cyanobacteria stet. sp. 2, North Male', 30 m.

Notes

A green alga that has a twig-like, creeping rhizome and several upright fonds attached to the substratum by rhizoids. Colouration brown and green shades. Size of patches ~ 16 cm. Species of *Caulerpa* are characterised by their morphological plasticity and display variation both in response to environmental factors and within species (Fig. 4). Same as *Caulerpa* sp. indet. 1 reported in Fassbender et al. (2021) from the Seychelles.

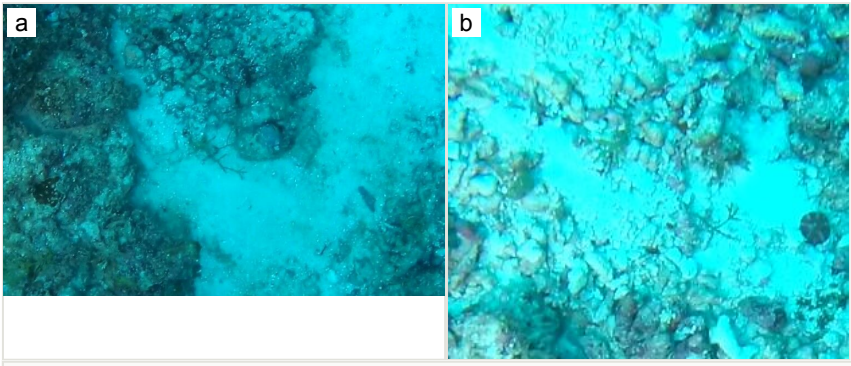

Figure 4.

Caulerpa sp. indet. 1

a: North Male', 30 m; doi

b: North Male', 30 m. doi

Caulerpa serrulata sp. inc. (Forsskål) J.Agardh, 1837

Material

a. scientificName: *Caulerpa serrulata*; kingdom: Plantae; phylum: Chlorophyta; class: Ulvophyceae; order: Bryopsidales; family: Caulerpaceae; genus: *Caulerpa*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Forsskål) J.Agardh, 1837; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

A green alga with a creeping inconspicuous rhizome and small flattened blades with serrated edges. Blades are sometimes twisted, spiralling or in a forked y-shape. Size of patches were ~ 13 cm. Colouration in lighter shades of green (Fig. 5).

Figure 5. doi

Caulerpa serrulata sp. inc., Addu, 30 m.

Halimeda sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Halimeda* sp.; kingdom: Plantae; phylum: Chlorophyta; class: Ulvophyceae; order: Bryopsidales; family: Halimedaceae; genus: *Halimeda*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: TBD; minimumDepthInMeters: TBD; maximumDepthInMeters: TBD; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

A macroalgae with disc-like, calcified segments, with variations in segment shape and size. A dense tuft of rhizoids attaches the thallus to the substratum. Often grows in branching clumps. Sizes of *Halimeda* patches, often including multiple thalli that were impossible to distinguish from one another, were ~ 18 cm (Fig. 6). Same as *Halimeda* spp. indet. reported in Fassbender et al. (2021) from the Seychelles, although, on this occasion, we did not collect specimens to verify that more than one species (spp.) were present in our surveys.

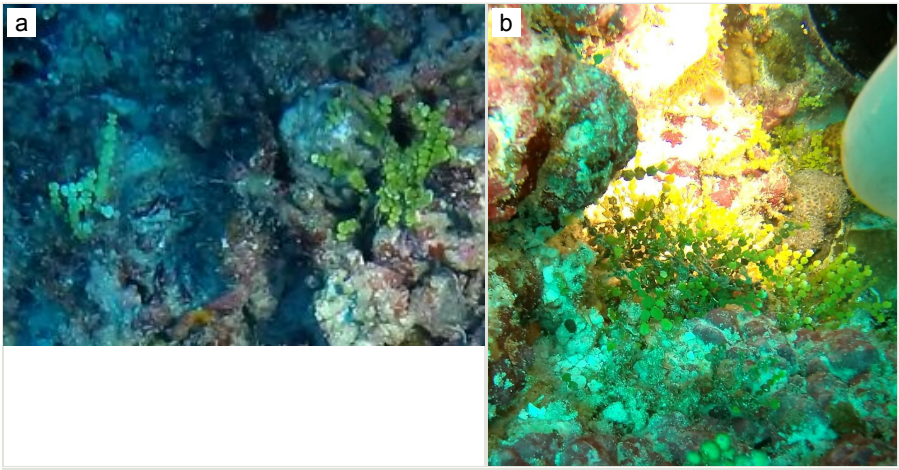

Figure 6.

Halimeda sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 30 m; doi
b: Laamu, 30 m. doi

Halimeda micronesica Yamada, 1941

Material

a. scientificName: ***Halimeda micronesica***; kingdom: Plantae; phylum: Chlorophyta; class: Ulvophyceae; order: Bryopsidales; family: Halimedaceae; genus: ***Halimeda***; scientificNameAuthorship: Yamada, 1941; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu, Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

A macroalgae with disc-like, calcified segments, with variations in segment shape and size. A dense tuft of rhizoids attaches the thallus to the substratum. Size of *H. miconesica* pathes, often including multiple thalli that were impossible to distinguish from one another, were ~ 22 cm. Often grows in branching clumps (Fig. 7).

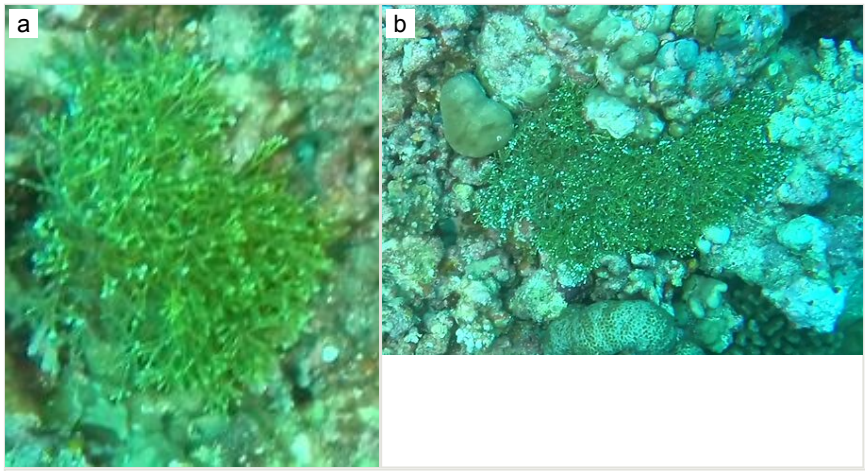

Figure 7.

Halimeda micronesica

a: North Male', 10 m; doi
b: North Male', 10 m. doi

Tydemania expeditionis Weber Bosse, 1901

Material

a. scientificName: *Tydemania expeditionis*; kingdom: Plantae; phylum: Chlorophyta; class: Ulvophyceae; order: Bryopsidales; family: Udoteaceae; genus: *Tydemania*; scientificNameAuthorship: Weber Bosse, 1901; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Addu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

A macroalgae that has a green thallus and grows in thick clumps ~ 25 cm. Cylindrical main branches with whorls of branches along the length that form several lateral branchlets. *Tydemania expeditionis* is the only confirmed species in the Maldives (Fig. 8).

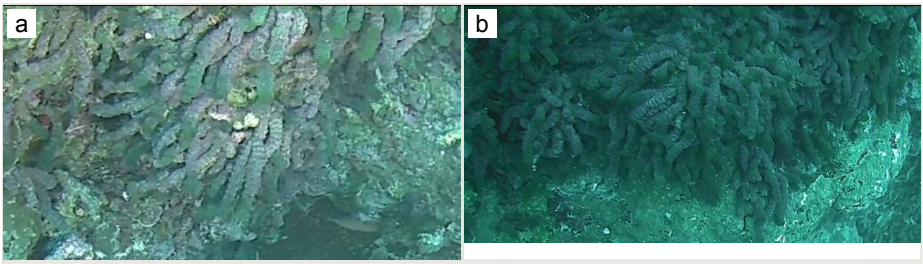

Figure 8.

Tydemania expeditionis

a: Addu, 30 m; doi
b: Addu, 30 m. doi

Corallinales stet.

Material

a. scientificName: Corallinales; kingdom: Plantae; phylum: Rhodophyta; class: Florideophyceae; order: Corallinales; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Encrusting algae from bright pink to purple. This group contains a variety of species that are difficult to identify from images. It is also known as crustose coralline algae (Fig. 9).

Spheciospongia sp. indet. 4

Material

a. scientificName: *Spheciospongia* sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Clionaida; family: Clionaidae; genus: *Spheciospongia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

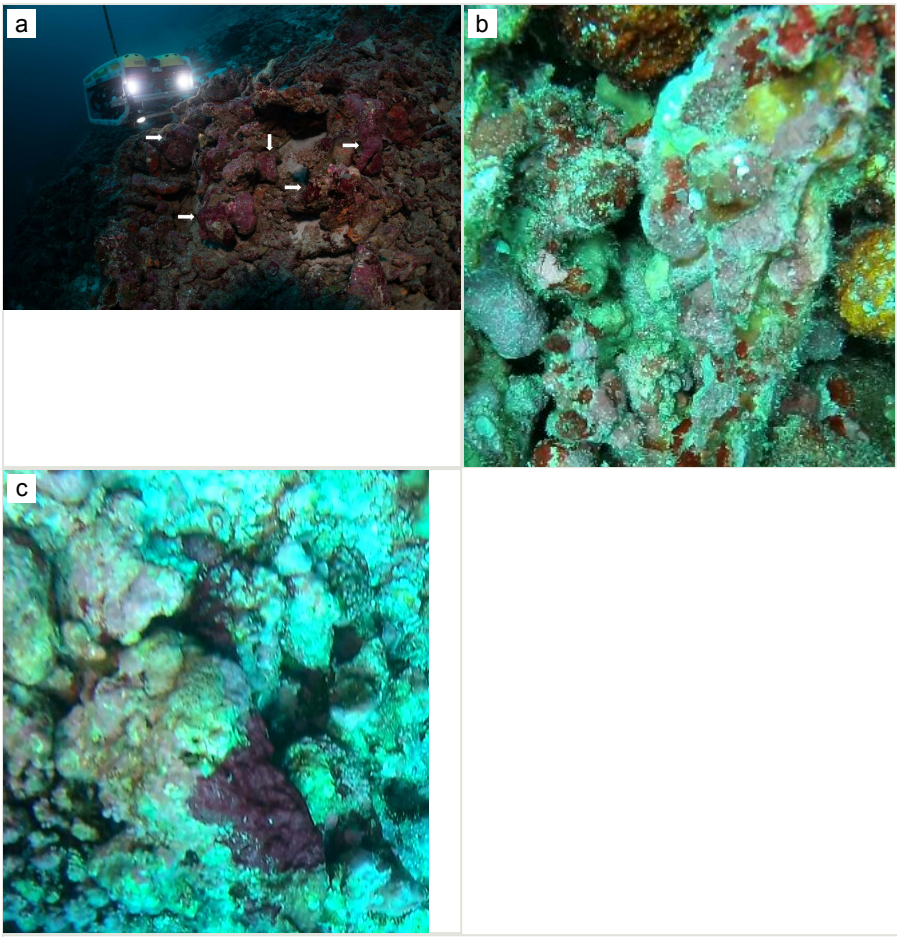

Figure 9.

Corallinales stet.

a: Huvadhu, 10-30 m; doi
b: North Male', 10 m; doi
c: Laamu, 10 m. doi

Notes

Small interlaced, rounded projections, cone-shaped sponges, separated over the substrate. Apical cavity (oscule) present. The surface is smooth, with some undulating. Size ~ 29 cm in longest dimension. Colouration shades of green and greenish-black (Fig. 10).

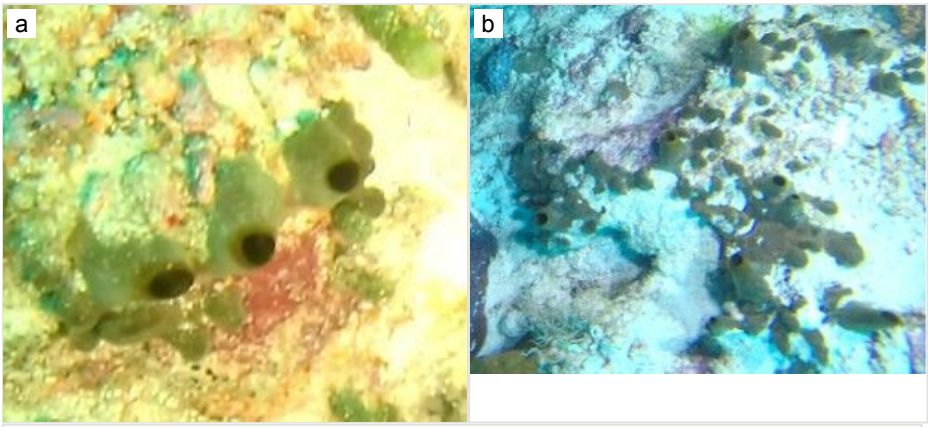

Figure 10.

Spheciospongia sp. indet. 4

a: Huvadhu, 30 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 30 m. doi

Spheciospongia sp. indet. 5

Material

a. scientificName: *Spheciospongia* sp. 5; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Clionaida; family: Clionaidae; genus: *Spheciospongia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 52; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Thickly encrusting to small pear-shaped or fig-shaped sponges. Surface even, but undulating; colouration light to dark grey. Approximately 11 cm in longest dimension (Fig. 11).

Spheciospongia excentrica (Burton, 1931)

Material

a. scientificName: *Spheciospongia excentrica*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Clionaida; family: Clionaidae; genus: *Spheciospongia*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Burton, 1931); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek

Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

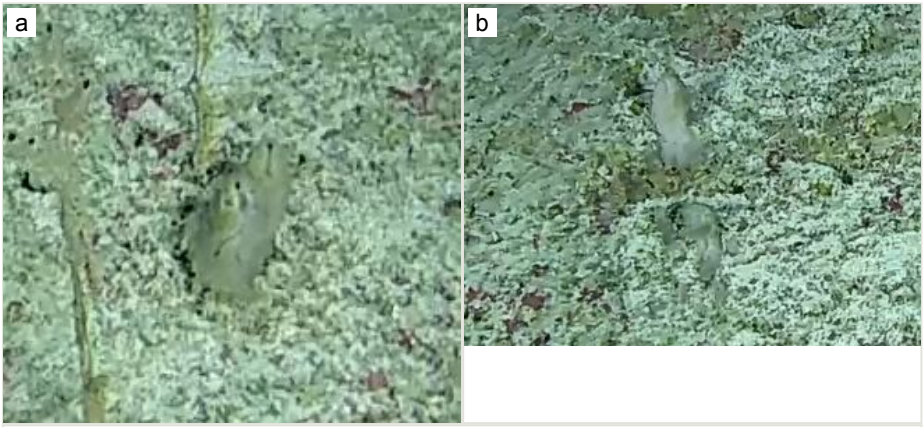

Figure 11.

Spheciospongia sp. indet. 5

a: North Male', 120 m; doi
b: North Male', 120 m. doi

Notes

Large cup- to barrel-shaped sponges. Surface smooth, but undulating and somewhat slippery to the touch. Large sunken indentations visible on the outer surface. Oscules randomly scattered on the inner side of the vase. Approximately 46 cm across. Colour in life brown; in preservative beige (Fig. 12).

Figure 12. doi

Spheciospongia excentrica, Addu, 30 m.

Phyllospongia foliascens (Pallas, 1766)

Material

a. scientificName: ***Phyllospongia foliascens***; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Dictyoceratida; family: Thorectidae; genus: ***Phyllospongia***; scientificNameAuthorship: (Pallas, 1766); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Fuvahmulah, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 59; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Oliaceous sponges attached to substratum by stalk. Usually made up of two concentric plates. The sponge is rubbery with ostia evenly scattered on the rim of the sponge. Surface smooth. Approximately 17 cm in longest dimension. Colouration light brown to pale grey with lighter shades of yellow (Fig. 13).

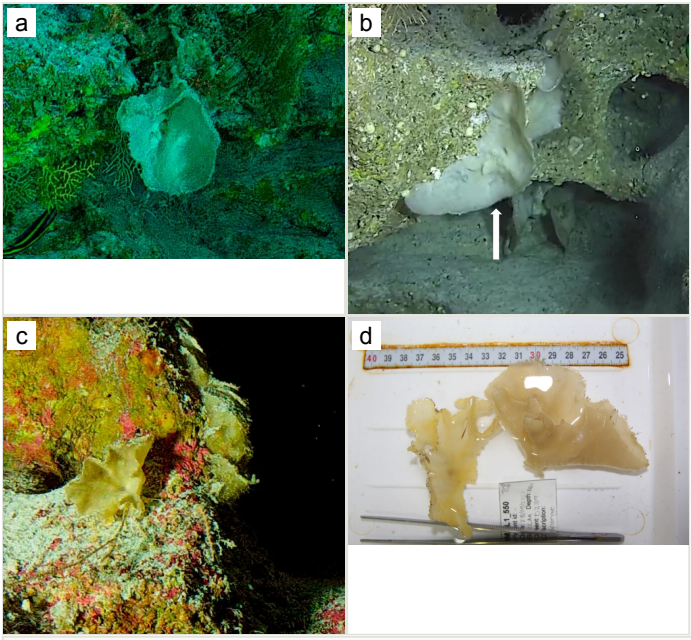

Figure 13.

Phyllospongia foliascens

a: Fuvahmulah, 120 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 120 m; doi
c: Laamu, 116 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_550; doi
d: Laamu, 116 m, collected specimen MAL1_550. doi

Callyspongia sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Callyspongia* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Haplosclerida; family: Callyspongiidae; genus: *Callyspongia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Erect, tubular or cylindrical sponges sometimes growing on top of calcitic substrata. Large oscula opening present. Surface is hispid and undulating with conulose structures (Fig. 14). Approximately 21 cm across. Same as *Callyspongia* sp. indet. reported in Fassbender et al. (2021) from the Seychelles.

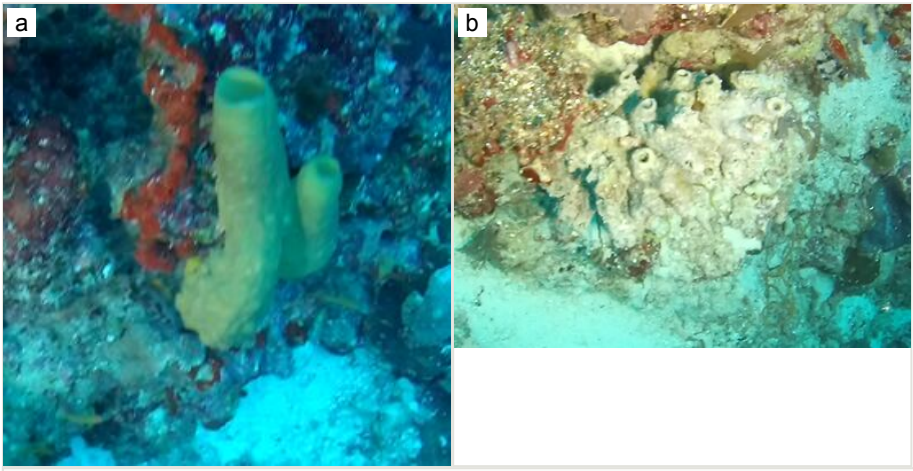

Figure 14.

Callyspongia sp. indet. 1

a: North Male', 30 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 30 m. doi

Petrosiidae gen. indet. sp. 3

Material

a. scientificName: Petrosiidae sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Haplosclerida; family: Petrosiidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission;

samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Thickly encrusting sponges, sometimes with irregular branching structures. Surface smooth and velvety with some punctate structures. Colouration is dark reddish-brown (Fig. 15).

Figure 15. doi

Petrosiidae gen. indet. sp. 3, Huvadhu, 30 m.

Petrosia sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Petrosia* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Petrosiidae; family: Petrosiidae; genus: *Petrosia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Dichotomously branching sponges sometimes interconnected by repent structures and attaching to the substrate by stalk at multiple points. Approximately 52 cm in longest dimension. Colouration patchy with lighter colours at the tips, ranging from shades of pink and purple and dark red with lighter colour at the tips (Fig. 16).

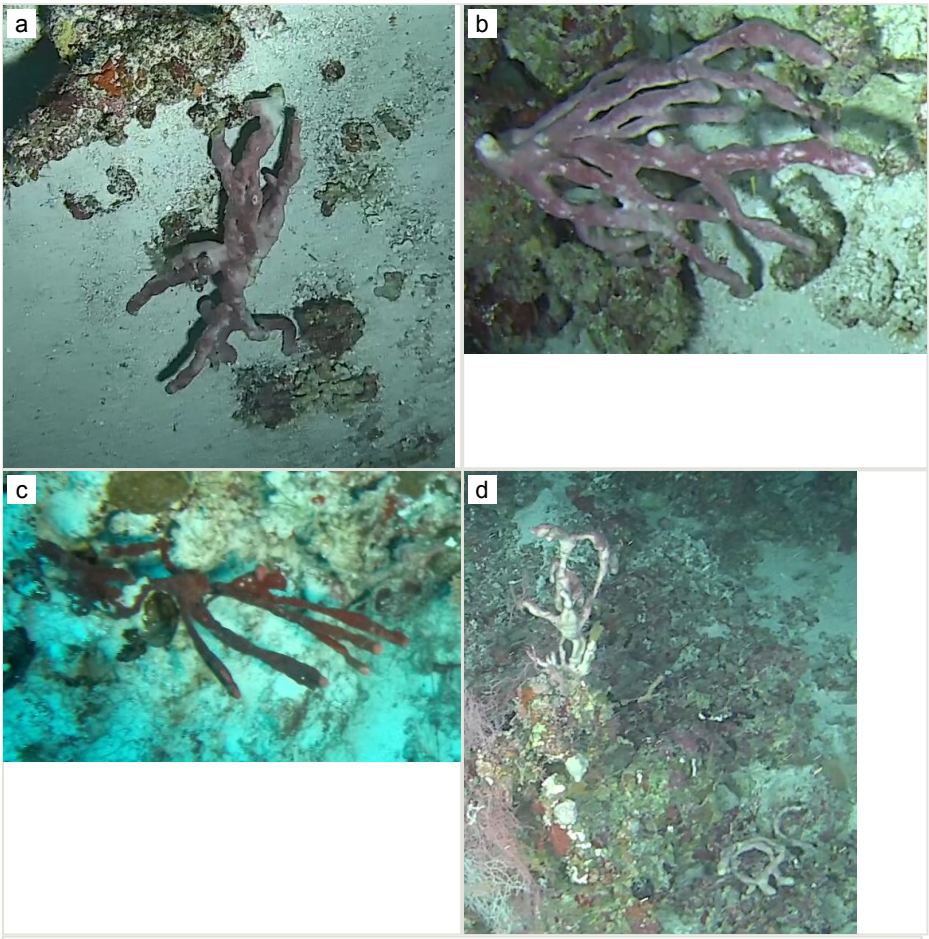

Figure 16.

Petrosia sp. indet. 1

a: North Male', 60 m; doi
b: North Male', 60 m; doi
c: Vaavu, 30 m; doi
d: Vaavu, 60 m. doi

Petrosia (Strongylophora) sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Petrosia* (*Strongylophora*) sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Petrosiidae; family: Petrosiidae; genus: *Petrosia (Strongylophora)*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek

Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Description

Thickly encrusting or encrusting cushion sponges. Surface uneven with turret-like or milk bottle-like oscules densely spread throughout the surface. Approximately 13 cm in longest dimension. Colouration brown to dark brown (Fig. 17).

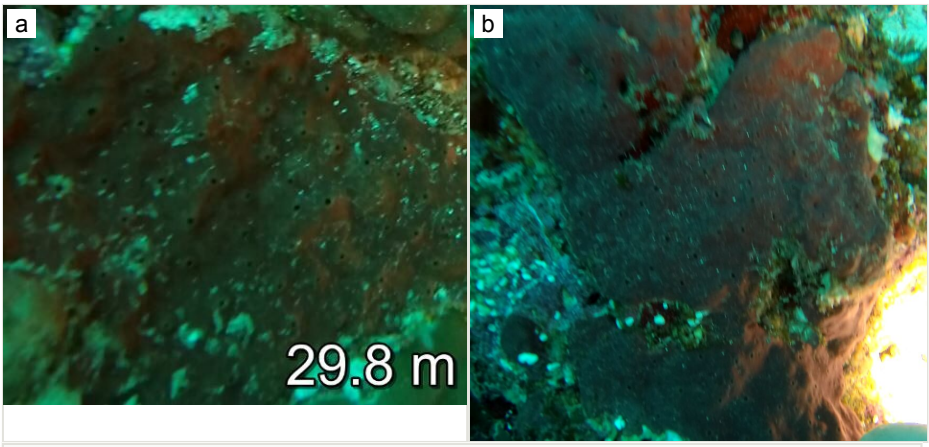

Figure 17.

Petrosia (*Strongylophora*) sp. indet. 2

a: Huvadhu, 30 m; doi
b: North Male', 30 m. doi

Haliclona sp. indet. 15

Material

a. scientificName: *Haliclona* sp. 15; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Haplosclerida; family: Chalinidae; genus: *Haliclona*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Arborescent, branching sponges. Smooth surface structure with numerous unevenly-sized circular cavities. Approximately 37 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration blue grey and blue shades with tips a lighter shade of grey white. Surface smooth and hispid (Fig. 18).

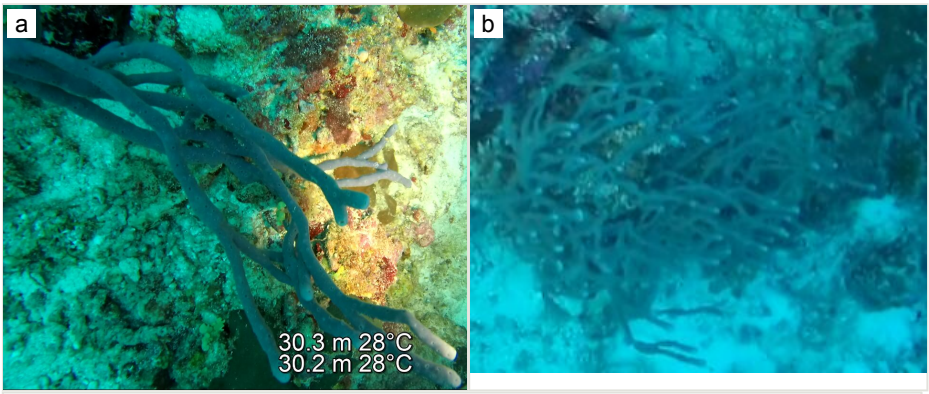

Figure 18.

Haliclona sp. indet. 15

a: North Male', 30 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 30 m. doi

Haliclona sp. indet. 16

Material

a. scientificName: *Haliclona* sp. 16; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Haplosclerida; family: Chalinidae; genus: *Haliclona*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 61; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Thinly-encrusting sponges growing whip-like with large oscules on the surface. Approximately 22 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration ranging from shades of pink and orange to yellow (Fig. 19).

Haliclona sp. indet. 17

Material

a. scientificName: *Haliclona* sp. 17; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Haplosclerida; family: Chalinidae; genus: *Haliclona*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

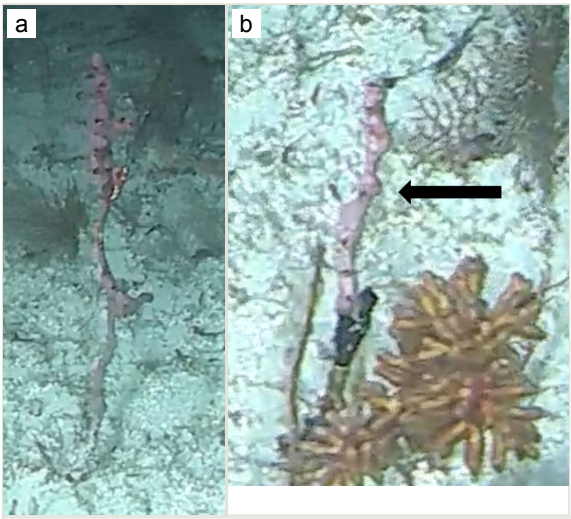

Figure 19.

Haliclona sp. indet. 16

a: Laamu, 60 m; doi
b: Laamu, 60 m. doi

Description

Thickly-encrusting sponges with an undulating and conulose surface. Approximately 13 cm across. Colouration in shades of brown and brownish-light green (Fig. 20).

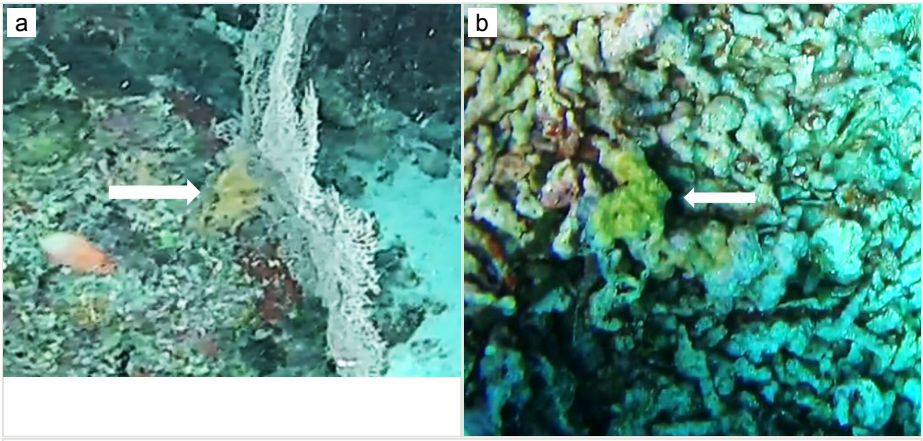

Figure 20.

Haliclona sp. indet. 17

a: North Male', 60 m; doi
b: Addu, 10 m. doi

Haliclona sp. indet. 18

Material

a. scientificName: *Haliclona* sp. 18; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Haplosclerida; family: Chalinidae; genus: *Haliclona*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 55; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Description

Thickly encrusting sponges with a smooth, velvety surface and numerous smaller oscules spread throughout the surface. Oscules scattered evenly over the surface. Approximately 13 cm across. Colouration in shades of blue to lavender or occasionally brownish-grey (Fig. 21).

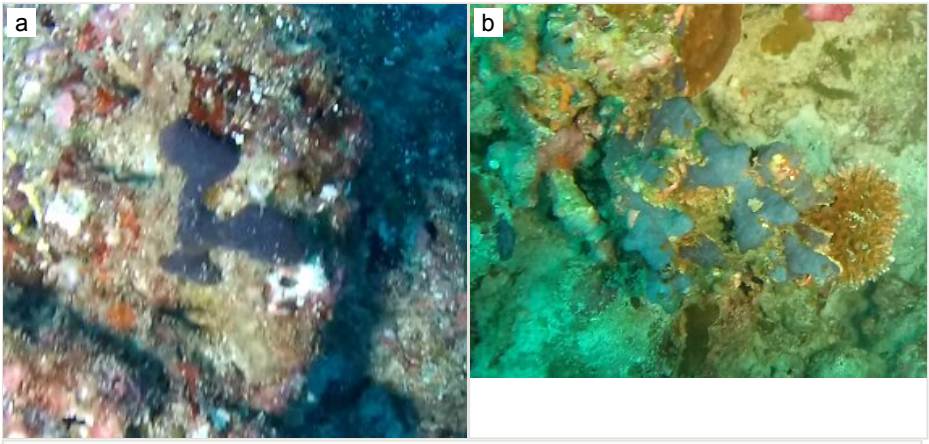

Figure 21.

Haliclona sp. indet. 18

a: North Male', 30 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 30 m. doi

Haliclona sp. indet. 19

Material

a. scientificName: *Haliclona* sp. 19; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Haplosclerida; family: Chalinidae; genus: *Haliclona*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 115; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy:

Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Irrergularly-branching sponge, sprawling over the surface, interconnected by and attached to the substrate at intervals. Approximately 17 cm in longest dimension. Colouration lighter grey and whitish (Fig. 22).

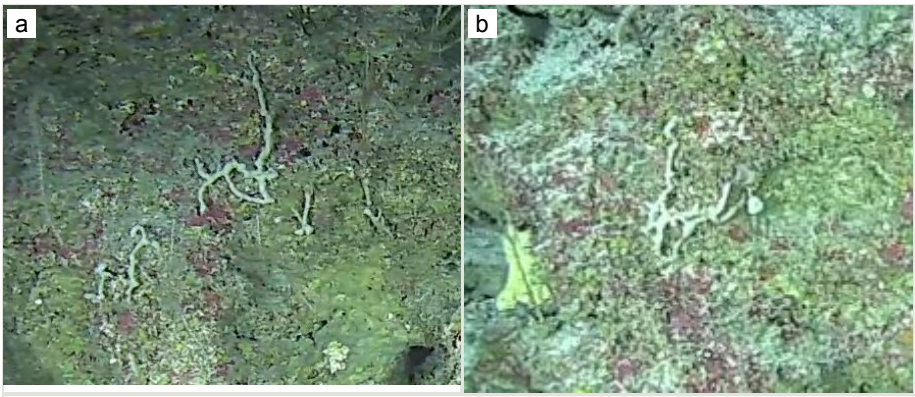

Figure 22.

Haliclona sp. indet. 19

a: North Male', 120 m; doi
b: North Male', 120 m. doi

Suberites sp. indet. 3

Material

a. scientificName: *Suberites* sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Suberitida; family: Suberitidae; genus: *Suberites*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Massive lobate sponges with a smooth, but undulating surface. One oscule visible. Size ~ 12 cm in longest dimension. Colouration brownish-green to/and grey (Fig. 23).

Figure 23. doi

Suberites sp. indet. 3, Laamu, 10 m.

Rhizaxinella ramulosa sp. inc. (Ridley & Dendy, 1886)

Material

a. scientificName: *Rhizaxinella ramulosa*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; order: Suberitida; family: Suberitidae; genus: *Rhizaxinella*; scientificNameAuthorship: Ridley & Dendy, 1886; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Description

Pedunculate sponges supported by a short stalk. Stalk is hard like bark. Surface hispid and undulating. One oscule present on the apex of peduncule. Approximately 6 cm tall. Colouration white to light yellow shades (Fig. 24).

Plakortis sp. indet. 3

Material

a. scientificName: *Plakortis* sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Homoscleromorpha; order: Homosclerophorida; family: Plakinidae; genus: *Plakortis*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

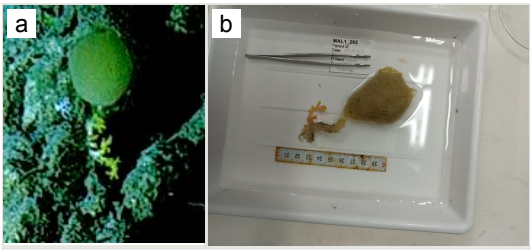

Figure 24.

Rhizaxinella ramulosa sp. inc.

a: Addu, 250 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_292; doi
b: Addu, 250 m, collected specimen MAL1_292. doi

Notes

Thickly encrusting or cushion-shaped sponges. The surface is smooth, the oscules are circular; the colouration is dark brown to black. Approximately 16 cm in longest dimension. Most likely *Plakortis nigra* (Fig. 25).

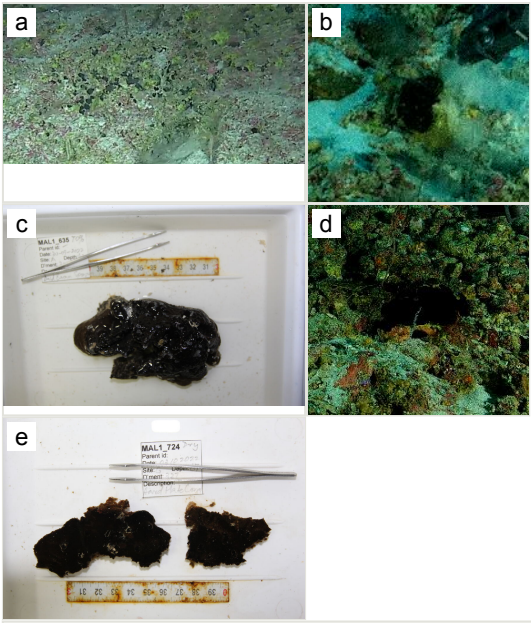

Figure 25.

Plakortis sp. indet. 3

a: North Male', 120 m doi
b: Vaavu, 62 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_635; doi
c: Vaavu, 62 m, collected specimen MAL1_635; doi
d: North Male', 67 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_724; doi
e: North Male', 67 m, collected specimen MAL1_724. doi

Iotrochota nigra (Baer, 1906)

Material

a. scientificName: *Iotrochota nigra*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae-Heteroscleromorpha; order: Poecilosclerida; family: Iotrochotidae; genus: *Iotrochota*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Baer, 1906); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Description

Thickly-encrusting growth forms with numerous ostia evenly scattered over the sponge surface. Approximately 25 cm across. Colouration in dark grey and black tones (Fig. 26).

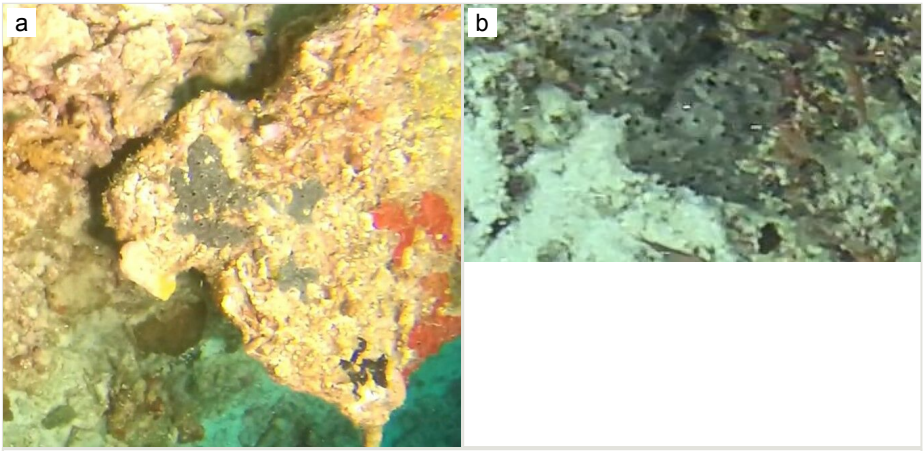

Figure 26.

Iotrochota nigra

a: Addu, 30 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 60 m. doi

Clathria sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Clathria* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae-Heteroscleromorpha; order: Poecilosclerida; family: Microcionidae; genus: *Clathria*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 26; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek

Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Sponge erect, flabellate with branching finger-like protrusions. Colouration bright orange, reddish-orange. Uneven and punctate surface (Fig. 27). Approximately ~ 19 cm in longest dimension. Same as *Clathria* sp. indet. reported in Fassbender et al. (2021) from the Seychelles.

Figure 27. doi

Clathria sp. indet. 1, North Male', 30 m.

Stylissa carteri (Dendy, 1889)

Material

a. scientificName: *Stylissa carteri*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae-Heteroscleromorpha; order: Scopalinida; family: Scopalinidae; genus: *Stylissa*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Dendy, 1889); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Branching erect or thickly encrusting sponges. Branching sponges with irregular protrusions from the base. Surface conulose. Rugose and uneven surface. Approximately 21 cm in longest dimension. Colourations in tones of orange and brown (Fig. 28).

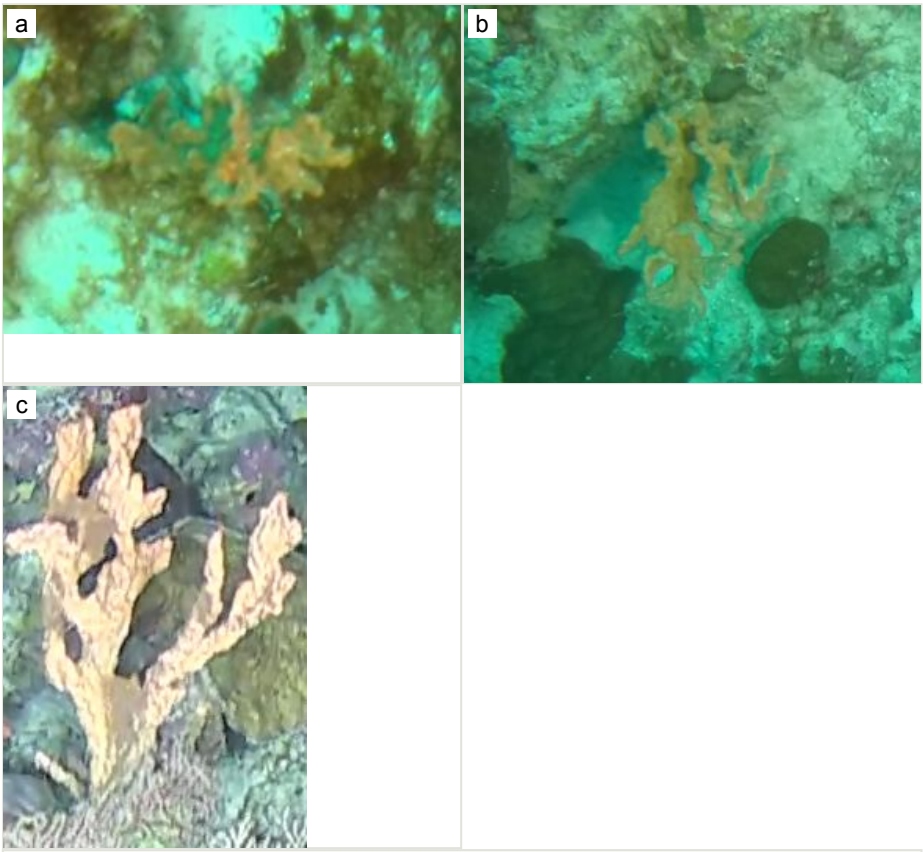

Figure 28.

Stylissa carteri

a: Huvadhu, 30 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 30 m; doi
c: Huvadhu, 60 m. doi

Stelletta sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Stelletta* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae-Heteroscleromorpha; order: Tetractinellida; family: Ancorinidae; genus: *Stelletta*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Globular spherical sponges. Colouration dark red tones with lighter shades towards the centre. Size < 20 cm across (Fig. 29).

Figure 29. doi

Stelletta sp. indet. 2, Addu, 10 m.

Corallistes sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Corallistes* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae-Heteroscleromorpha; order: Tetractinellida; family: Corallistidae; genus: *Corallistes*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 52; maximumDepthInMeters: 491; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Massive lobate and lamellate growth forms with a variety of lighter colour tones such as yellow, cream or grey. Size ~ 10 cm across (Fig. 30).

Geodia sp. indet. 3

Material

a. scientificName: *Geodia* sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae-Heteroscleromorpha; order: Tetractinellida; family: Geodiidae; genus: *Geodia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu,

Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 57; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

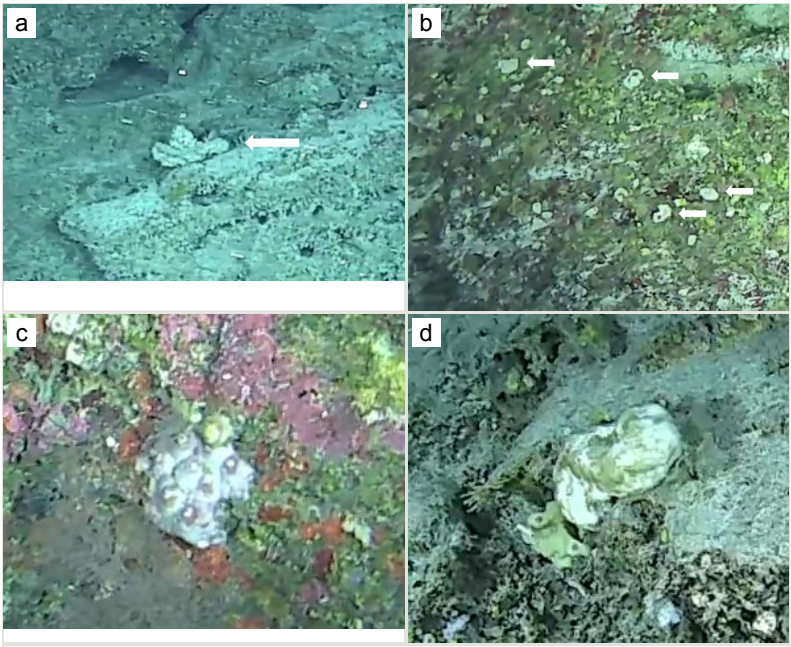

Figure 30.

Corallistes sp. indet. 2

a: Vaavu, 120 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 120 m; doi
c: Addu, 60 m; doi
d: Laamu, 490 m. doi

Notes

Globular spherical sponges with singular oscule. Approximately 13 cm in longest dimension. A cream, light pink colouration (Fig. 31).

Geodia sp. indet. 4

Material

a. scientificName: *Geodia* sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae-Heteroscleromorpha; order: Tetractinellida; family: Geodiidae; genus: *Geodia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 59; maximumDepthInMeters: 119; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR

Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

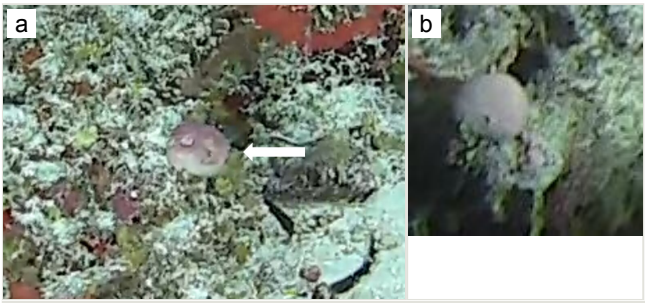

Figure 31.

Geodia sp. indet. 3

a: Laamu, 60 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 120 m. doi

Notes

Semi-spherical growth forms with singular central oscule. Approximately 11 cm in longest dimension. Colouration in light cream and grey tones (Fig. 32).

Figure 32. doi

Geodia sp. indet. 4, Vaavu, 120 m.

Pachastrella sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Pachastrella* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae-Heteroscleromorpha; order: Tetractinellida; family: Pachastrellidae; genus: *Pachastrella*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 59; maximumDepthInMeters: 491;

locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Variable in shape, thickly folded plates, but also shallow cup-shaped, bumpy-irregular outside, smooth inside. Surface rough, sponge is hard, incompressible. Oscules not apparent. Approximately 15 cm across. Colour alive greyish-white, on deck and, in preservation, light beige. Colouration in tones of cream, yellow and light green (Fig. 33). Same as *Pachastrella* sp. indet. reported in Fassbender et al. (2021) from the Seychelles.

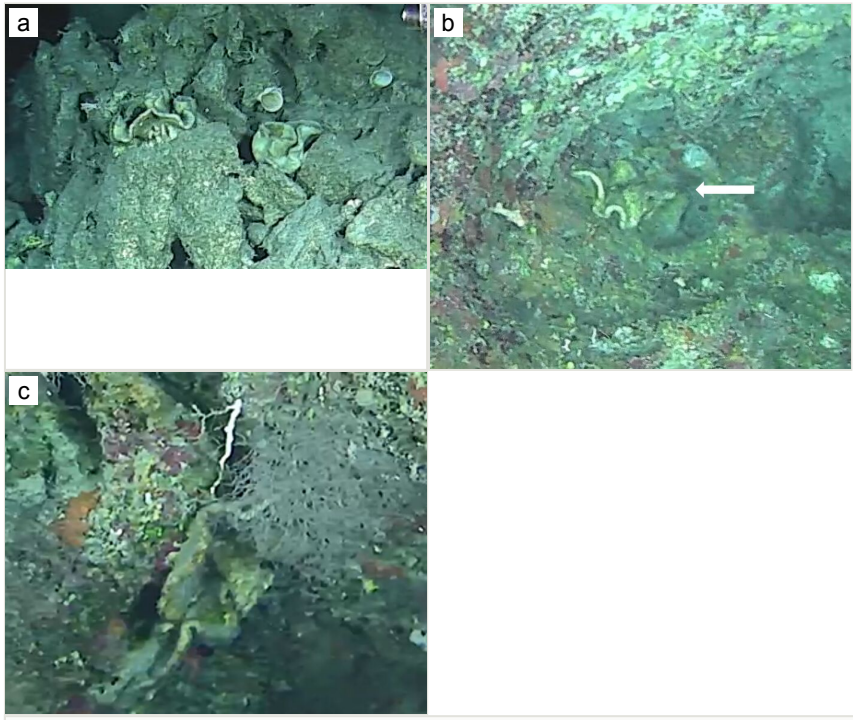

Figure 33.

Pachastrella sp. indet. 1

a: Addu, 250 m; doi
b: Addu, 60 m; doi
c: Addu, 60 m. doi

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Demospongiae sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Thickly encrusting sponges approximately 26 cm across. Surface uneven with colouration in red (Fig. 34). Same morphotype reported in Fassbender et al. (2021) from the Seychelles.

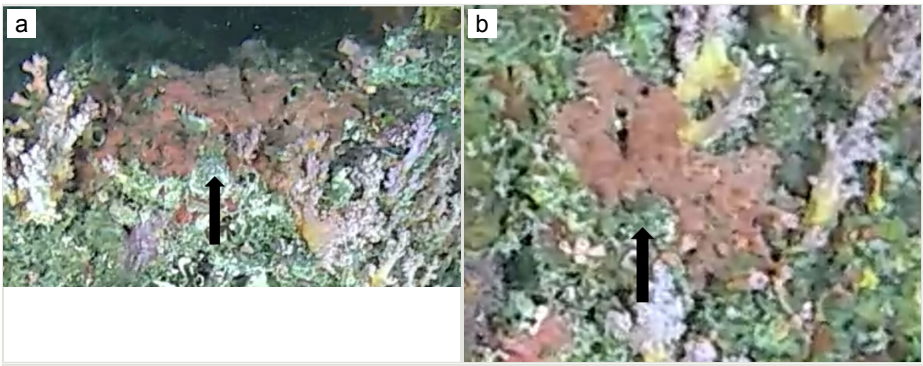

Figure 34.

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 1

a: Huvadhu, 60 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 60 m. doi

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Demospongiae sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Encrusting sponges of various thicknesses and textures. Colouration shades of orange. Surface rugose and undulating (Fig. 35). Approximately 19 cm across. This group may comprise species from several genera that are not consistently identifiable to finer taxonomic level, although, in some cases, that is possible (Fig. 35c). Same morphotype reported in Fassbender et al. (2021) from the Seychelles.

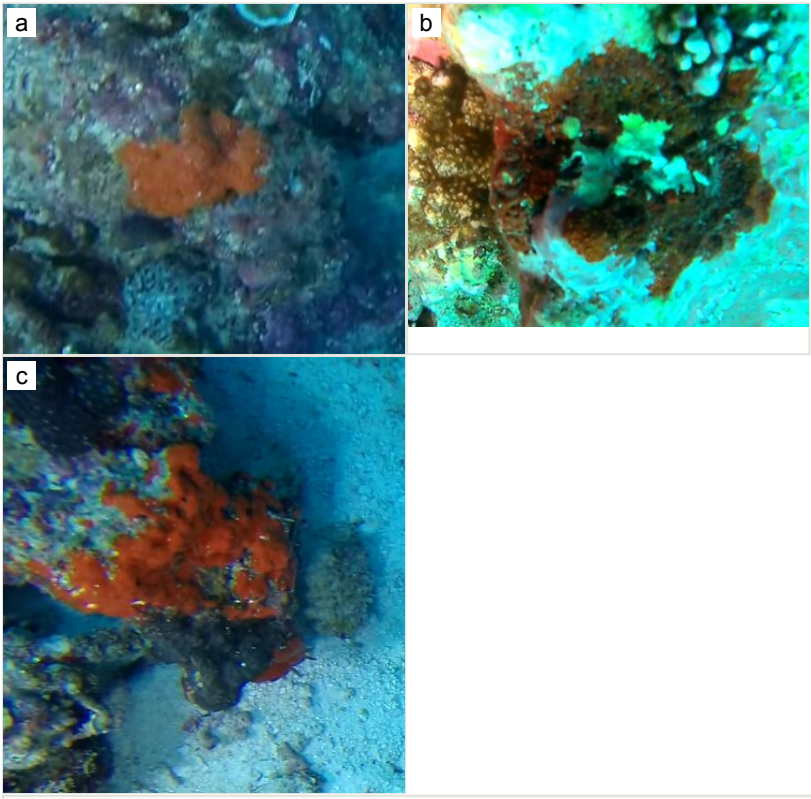

Figure 35.

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 2

a: North Male, 30 m, *Biemna* sp. indet.; doi
b: Laamu, 10 m, *Biemna* sp. indet.; doi
c: North Male, 30 m. doi

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 3

Material

a. scientificName: Demospongiae sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; scientificNameAuthorship: Sollas, 1885; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton

Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Encrusting sponges of various thicknesses and textures. Approximately 16 cm across. Colouration bright red to dark red and red-brown (Fig. 36). This group presumably comprises a range of species from multiple families that are typically not possible to consistently identify underwater. Same morphotype reported in Fassbender et al. (2021) from the Seychelles.

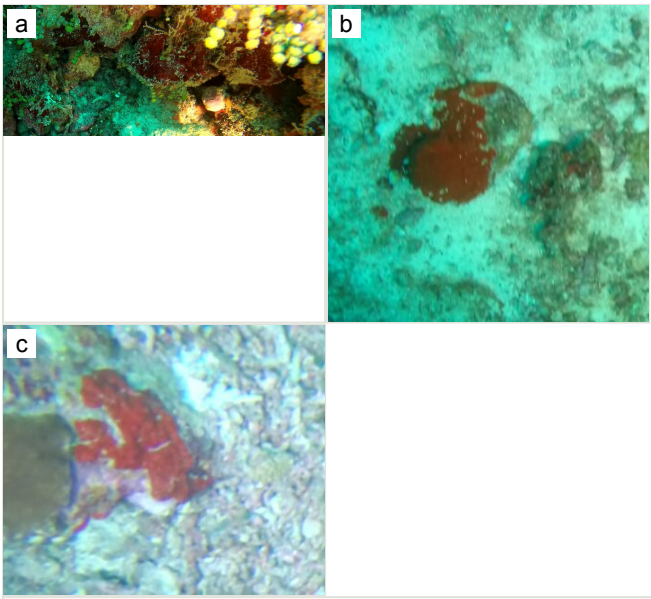

Figure 36.

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 3

a: Laamu, 30 m; doi
b: North Male', 30 m, *Clathria* sp. indet.; doi
c: Addu, 30 m, *Clathria* sp. indet. doi

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 4

Material

a. scientificName: Demospongiae sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; scientificNameAuthorship: Sollas, 1885; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 8; maximumDepthInMeters: 491; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR

Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Yellow encrusting sponge with colouration in shades of yellow or yellow-brown (Fig. 37). Approximately 28 cm in longest dimension. Comprises a number of species including *Pseudoceratina purpurea* (collected specimen; ~ 15 cm across) and *Aplysina sulfurea* (measured specimens ~ 25 cm across) that are not consistently identifiable underwater. Same morphotype reported in Fassbender et al. (2021) from the Seychelles.

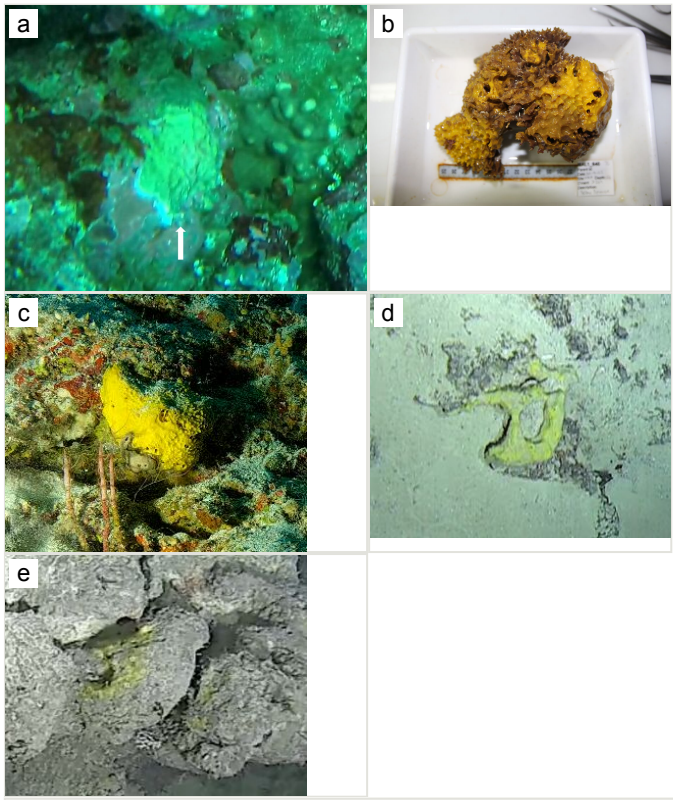

Figure 37.

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 4

a: Laamu, 10 m, *Pseudoceratina purpurea* sp. inc.; doi
b: Vaavu, 64 m, collected specimen MAL1_640; doi
c: Vaavu, 64 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_640; doi
d: Huvadhu, 490 m, *Aplysilla sulfurea* sp. inc.; doi
e: Huvadhu, 250 m, *Aplysilla sulfurea* sp. inc. doi

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 16 Sollas, 1885

Material

a. scientificName: Demospongiae sp. 16; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 57; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Thickly-encrusting sponges. Approximately 29 cm in longest dimension. Colouration grey, yellow or light brown (Fig. 38).

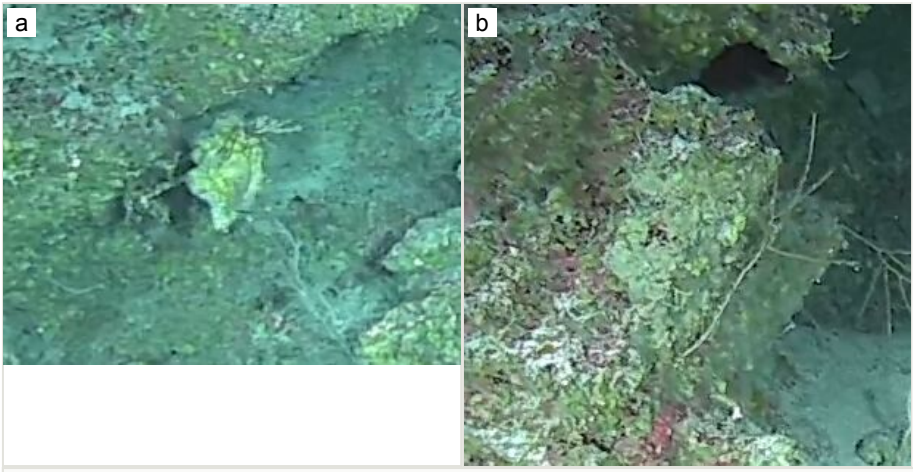

Figure 38.

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 16

a: Addu, 120 m; doi
b: Laamu, 120 m. doi

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 17

Material

a. scientificName: Demospongiae sp. 17; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 59; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Thickly-encrusting sponges in light to darker pink colourations (Fig. 39).

Figure 39. doi

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 17, Addu, 60 m.

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 18

Material

a. scientificName: Demospongiae sp. 18; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Thinly encrusting sponges with verrucose surface in dark red colourations. Globular raised lumps on the surface. Approximately 15 cm across. Sometimes similar to red algae in appearance. Potentially a bath sponge in the Genus *Hyrtios* or *Ircinia* (Fig. 40).

Figure 40. doi

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 18, Huvadhu, 10 m.

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 19

Material

a. scientificName: Demospongiae sp. 19; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Demospongiae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Encrusting sponges with yellow and yellowish-grey colourations. Approximately 24 cm across (Fig. 41).

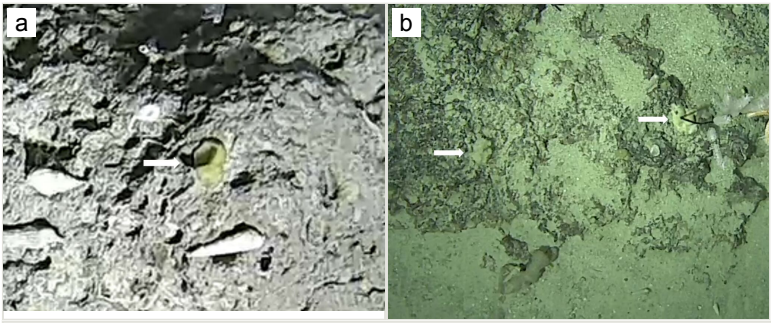

Figure 41.

Demospongiae ord. indet. sp. 19

a: Huvadhu, 490 m; doi

b: Huvadhu, 490 m. doi

Hyalonema (Paradisconema) alcocki Schulze, 1895

Material

a. scientificName: *Hyalonema* (*Paradisconema*) *alcocki*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Hexactinellida; order: Amphidiscosida; family: Hyalonematidae; genus: *Hyalonema*; scientificNameAuthorship: Schulze, 1895; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu, Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 497; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Stalked with globular spherical-shaped sponges with varying length of stalk. Approximately 17 cm tall (Fig. 42).

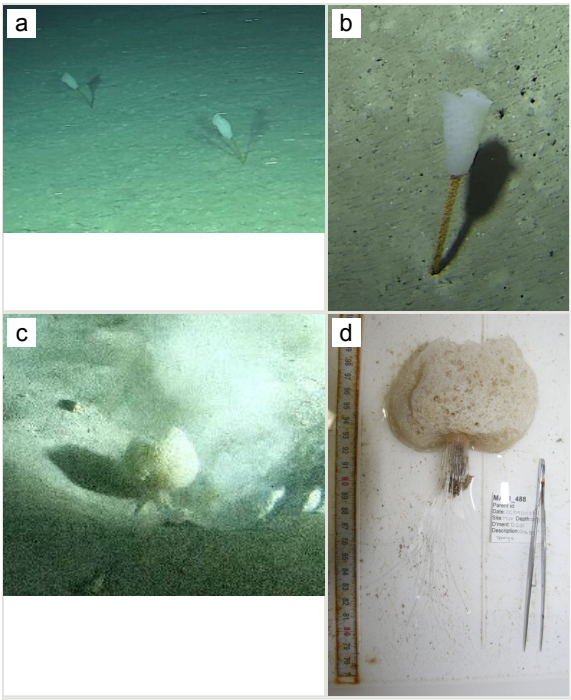

Figure 42.

Hyalonema (*Paradisconema*) *alcocki*

a: Vaavu, 490 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 490 m; doi
c: Huvadhu, 497 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_488; doi
d: Huvadhu, 497 m, collected specimen MAL1_488. doi

Semperella cucumis Schulze, 1895

Material

a. scientificName: *Semperella cucumis*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Hexactinellida; order: Amphidiscosida; family: Pheronematidae; genus: *Semperella*; scientificNameAuthorship: Schulze, 1895; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 497; maximumDepthInMeters: 500; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Elongated and columnar glass sponges with a short stalk and one central oscule at the tip. Approximately 17 cm tall. Collected specimen (Fig. 43).

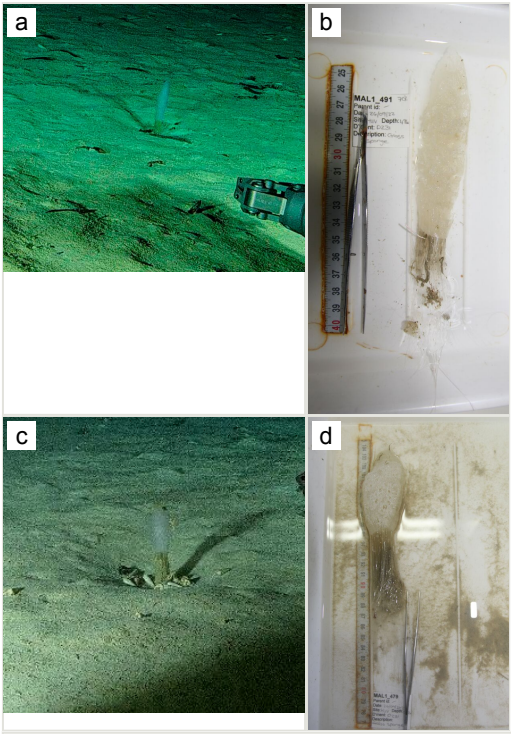

Figure 43.

Semperella cucumis

a: Huvadhu, 497 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_491; doi
b: Huvadhu, 497 m, collected specimen MAL1_491; doi
c: Huvadhu, 500 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_479; doi
d: Huvadhu, 500 m, collected specimen MAL1_479. doi

Farrea sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Farrea* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Hexactinellida; order: Sceptrulophora; family: Farreidae; genus: *Farrea*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 488; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Reticulate branching growth forms with heavy fusing between branches and spherical shape. Approximately 34 cm across. Colouration white and whitish-grey tones (Fig. 44).

Figure 44. doi

Farrea sp. indet. 1, Vaavu, 490 m.

Farrea sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Farrea* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Hexactinellida; order: Sceptrulophora; family: Farreidae; genus: *Farrea*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 490; maximumDepthInMeters: 491; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 941C7281-7FAE-5139-A7C7-24A0E3E5EC67

Notes

Foliaceous glass sponges with spherical or oval-shaped forms. Approximately 38 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration light to whitish-grey (Fig. 45).

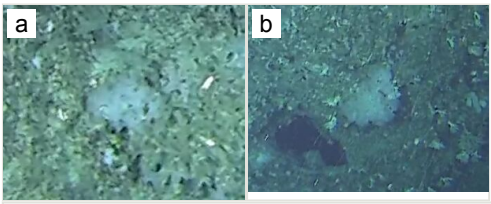

Figure 45.

Farrea sp. indet. 2

a: Laamu, 490 m; doi
b: Laamu, 490 m. doi

Pleurochorium annandalei (Kirkpatrick, 1908)

Material

a. scientificName: *Pleurochorium annandalei*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Hexactinellida; order: Sceptrulophora; family: Euretidae; genus: *Pleurochorium*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Kirkpatrick, 1908); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Arborescent erect branching glass sponges with clear translucent-looking structure. Approximately 16 cm in the longest dimension. Collected specimen (Fig. 46).

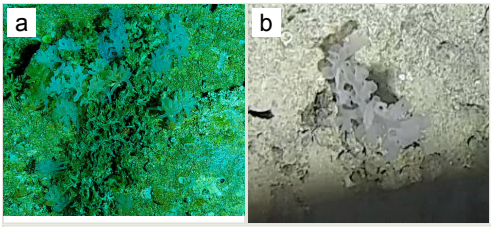

Figure 46.

Pleurochorium annandalei

a: Fuvahmulah, 250 m; doi
b: Addu, 490 m. doi

Hexactinellida ord. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Hexactinellida sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Porifera; class: Hexactinellida; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 488; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Toufiek Samaai; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Massive lobate sponges with uneven surface. Approximately 11 cm in longest dimension. Colouration light grey and whitish tones (Fig. 47).

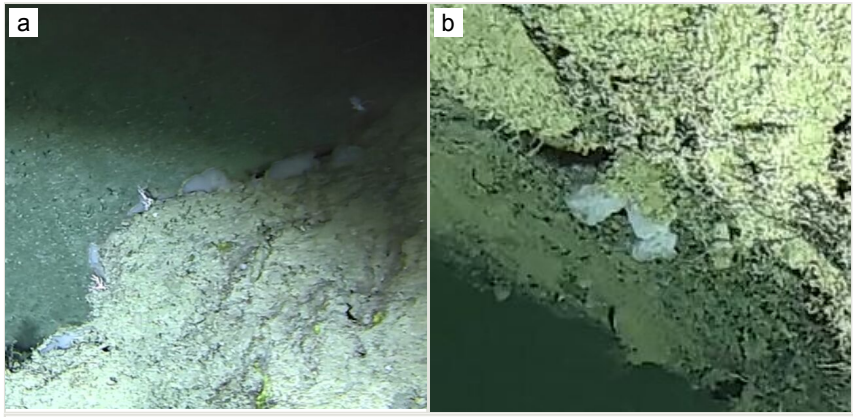

Figure 47.

Hexactinellida ord. indet. sp. 1

a: Vaavu, 490 m; doi
b: North Male', 490 m. doi

Radianthus magnifica (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833)

Material

a. scientificName: *Radianthus magnifica*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Actiniaria; family: Stichodactylidae; genus: *Radianthus*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Oral disc covered in densely packed long tentacles with blunt or slightly swollen tips. Column exposed with a flared look and bright coloured often in pink and purple shades (Fig. 48).

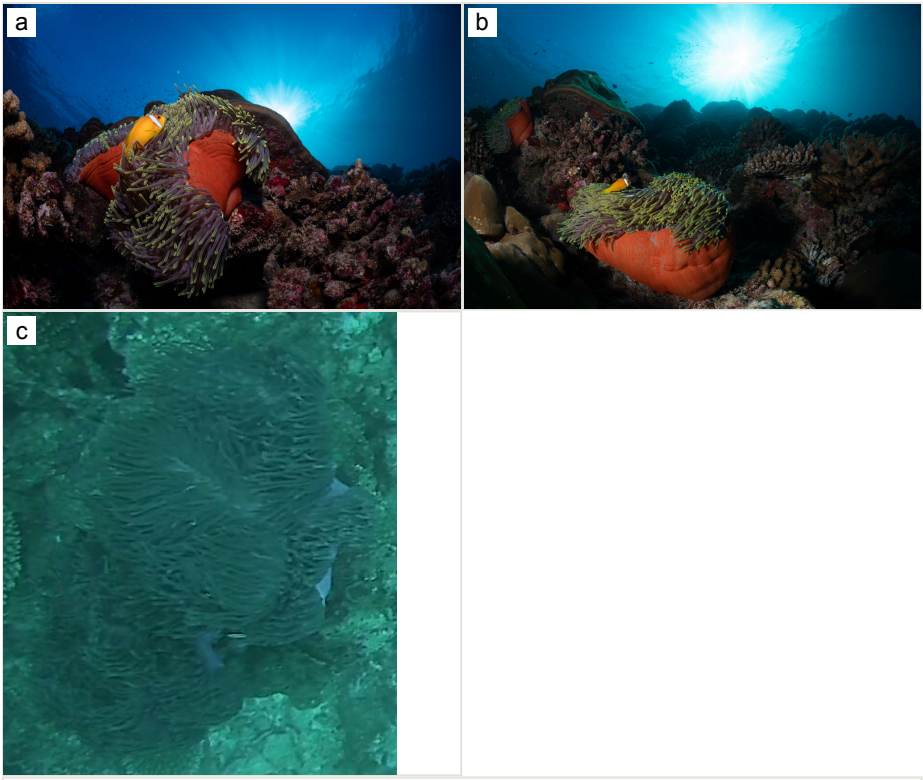

Figure 48.

Radianthus magnifica

a: Fuvahmulah, 10-30 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 10-30 m; doi
c: Addu, 30 m. doi

Heteractis aurora (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833)

Material

a. scientificName: *Heteractis aurora*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Actiniaria; family: Heteractidae; genus: *Heteractis*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy:

Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

This genus contains many species with similar morphology. Characterised by an undulated wide oral disc with short marginal tentacles on the outer edge. Diameter of oral disc ~ 12 cm. Colouration highly variable in brown and beige shades (Fig. 49).

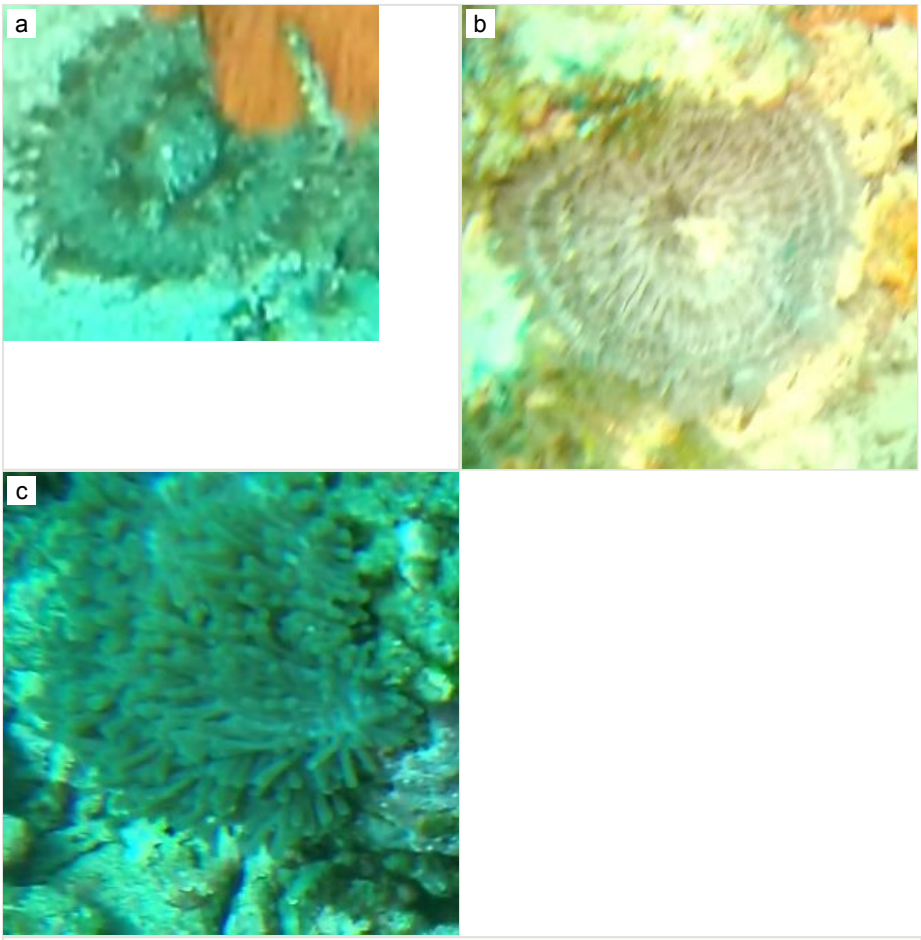

Figure 49.

Heteractis aurora

a: Laamu, 30 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 30 m; doi
c: Huvadhu, 10 m. doi

Stichodactyla mertensii Brandt, 1835

Material

a. scientificName: *Stichodactyla mertensii*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Actiniaria; family: Stichodactylidae; genus: *Stichodactyla*; scientificNameAuthorship: Brandt, 1835; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Large anemone with densely packed short, finger-like or club-shaped tentacles. Slightly undulated ovular disc, growth sometimes following the profile of substratum and attached by adhesive verrucae. Average diameter of oral disc of measured individuals ~ 4 cm, although pcitured specimen was closer to 10 cm (Fig. 50).

Figure 50. doi

Stichodactyla mertensii with host anemone fish *Amphiprion clarkii*, Laamu, 10 m.

Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Actiniaria sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Actiniaria; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 247; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis;

dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Small oval disc slightly inflated towards the mouth, with sparsely distributed tentacles. Oral disc darker in colours in purple and blue shades with a distinctly lighter colour on the tentacles. Diameter of oral disc ~ 6 cm. Columns sometimes exposed, has a blotchy look and lighter colouration than oral disc (Fig. 51). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

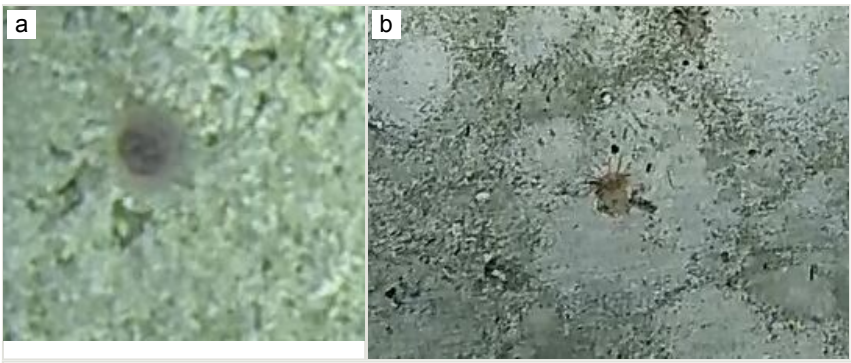

Figure 51.

Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 2

a: Huvadhu, 250 m; doi
b: North Male', 250 m. doi

Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 4

Material

a. scientificName: Actiniaria sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Actiniaria; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 247; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Anemone with short stalk and circular oral disc with sparsely distributed long marginal tentacles along the edge of the disc. Diameter of oral disc ~ 4 cm. Colouration in shades of orange with darker shades towards the centre and the mouth (Fig. 52).

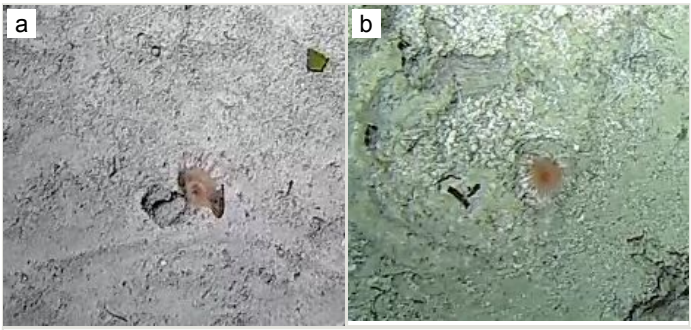

Figure 52.

Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 4

a: Huvadhu, 490 m; doi
b: Addu, 250 m. doi

Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 5

Material

a. scientificName: Actiniaria sp. 5; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Actiniaria; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 490; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Round oral disc in bright yellow colouration. Diameter of oral disc ~ 4 cm. Long sparsely distributed marginal tentacles in lighter colour, sometimes translucent-looking. Column not visible and burrowed in substratum (Fig. 53).

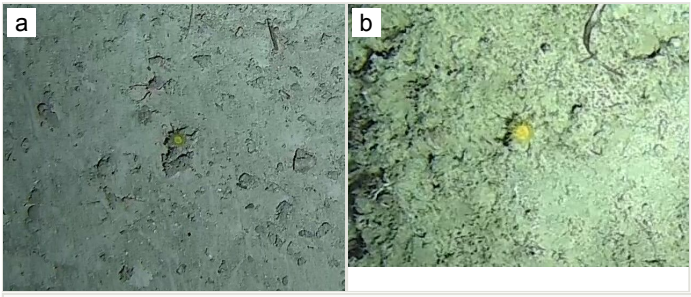

Figure 53.

Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 5

a: Addu, 490 m; doi
b: North Male', 250 m. doi

Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 6

Material

a. scientificName: Actiniaria sp. 6; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Actiniaria; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Spherical-shaped oral disc with long tapered tentacles with pointy tips, covering the whole surface. Diameter of oral disc ~ 15 cm. Tentacles dark brown to dark red in colour. Same morphotype was reported in the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021). Likely belongs to *Liponema*. (Fig. 54).

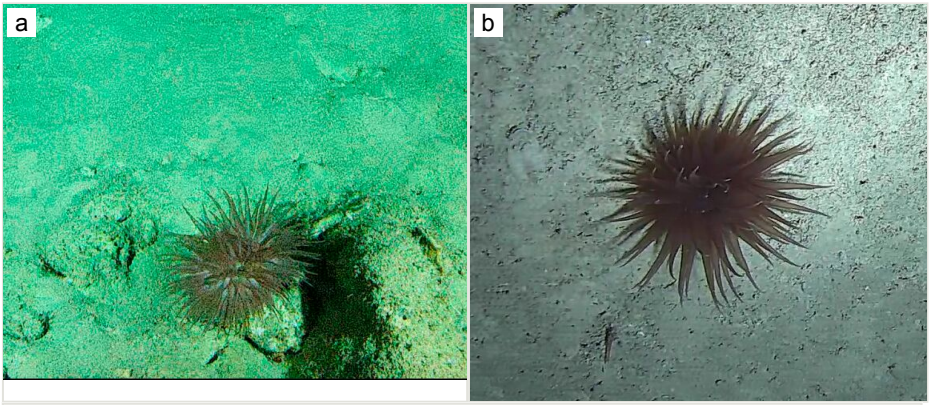

Figure 54.

Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 6

a: Vaavu, 250 m; doi
b: North Male', 490 m. doi

Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 7

Material

a. scientificName: Actiniaria sp. 7; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Actiniaria; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 491; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Relatively small oral disc in comparison to tentacle length. Tentacles are long and arranged radially (Fig. 55).

Figure 55. doi

Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 7, Addu, 490 m.

Actiniaria

Material

a. scientificName: Actiniaria sp. 8; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Actiniaria; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 250; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Small circular oral disc, slightly inflated towards the centre and sparsely spaced tentacles in radial rows. Colouration dark brown with light brown and cream colour on the disc margins. Diameter of oral disc ~ 3 cm. Tentacles short and light brown in colour (Fig. 56).

Acropora sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Acropora* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Acroporidae; genus: *Acropora*; waterBody: Indian

Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Figure 56. doi

Actiniaria fam. indet. sp. 8, Laamu, 490 m.

Notes

Visually distinct caespitose colonies with interlocking branches and branchlets. Key features of this taxon are its differentiated axial corallites located at the tips of branches that are long, elongated and tabular in appearance. Colony size ~ 22 cm across. Axial corallites are often pale or white in colour. The most commonly found colour morph is brown (Fig. 57).

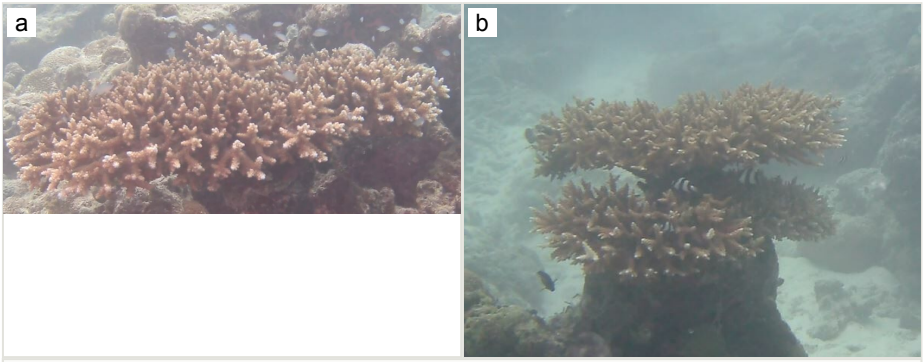

Figure 57.

Acropora sp. indet. 1

a: Vaavu, 10 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 10 m. doi

Acropora sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Acropora* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Acroporidae; genus: *Acropora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Visually distinct tabular colonies with corallites elongated and upward projecting. Branches of the colony typically grow spreading horizontally from a thick pedestal base. Colony size ~ 25 cm in the longest dimension. It is also referred to as the table coral (Fig. 58).

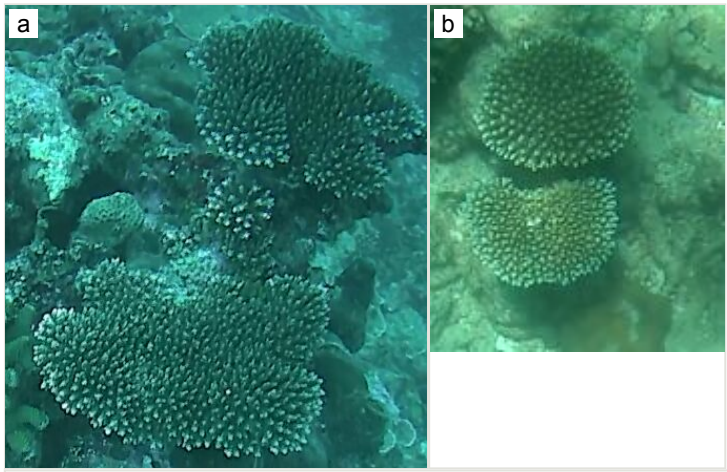

Figure 58.

Acropora sp. indet. 2

a: Addu, 30 m; doi
b: Addu, 2 m. doi

Acropora sp. indet. 3

Material

a. scientificName: *Acropora* sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Acroporidae; genus: *Acropora*; scientificNameAuthorship: Oken, 1815; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2;

maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Arborescent colonies forming thickets. Green to brownish-orange in colour. Colony size ~ 18 cm in the longest dimension. Both axial and radial corallites are tabular and elongated with white or pale tips (Fig. 59).

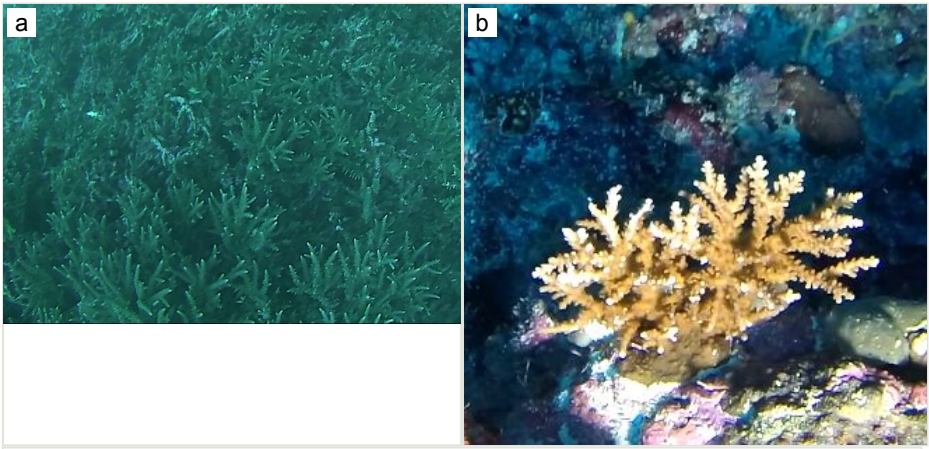

Figure 59.

Acropora sp. indet. 3

a: Addu, 30 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 30 m. doi

Acropora sp. indet. 4

Material

a. scientificName: *Acropora* sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Acroporidae; genus: *Acropora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

More rounded colonies with terete conical branches. Branches originate from a wider base than those observed in tabular or caespitose morphologies of this genus. Colony size ~ 11 cm in the longest dimension. Radial corallites are uneven in size. Cylindrical slightly tapered branches. Orange to pale yellow in colour (Fig. 60).

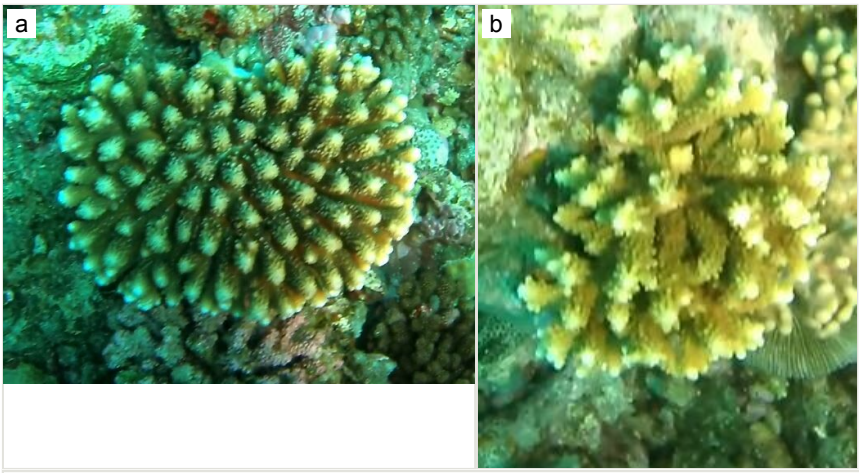

Figure 60.

Acropora sp. indet. 4

a: Huvadhu, 10 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 10 m. doi

Acropora sp. indet. 5

Material

a. scientificName: *Acropora* sp. 5; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Acroporidae; genus: *Acropora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Distinct from arborescent colonies by their thick and slightly compressed (planar) looking branches. Colony size ~ 12 cm in the longest dimension. Forms terminal branches that fan out. Orange in colour (Fig. 61).

Acropora sp. indet. 6

Material

a. scientificName: *Acropora* sp. 6; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Acroporidae; genus: *Acropora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Figure 61. doi

Acropora sp. indet. 5, Laamu, 30 m.

Notes

Thick branches with shorter offshoots. Dimorphic radial corallites give the branches a rough appearance. Brown in colour with tips of branches paler or white (Fig. 62).

Acropora sp. indet. 7

Material

a. scientificName: *Acropora* sp. 7; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Acroporidae; genus: *Acropora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

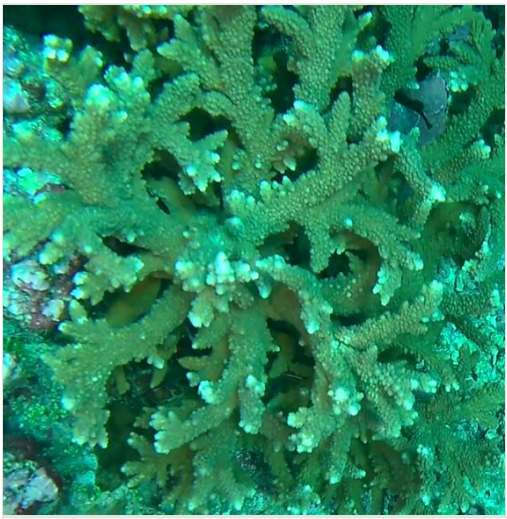

Figure 62. doi

Acropora sp. indet. 6, Laamu, 10 m.

Notes

Clustered and compressed branches (flatter in appearance than other species) that are visually distinctive from digitate colonies. Greenish brown in colour with tips of branches pale or white. Colony size ~ 23 cm in the longest dimension. Radial corallites are uneven in size (Fig. 63).

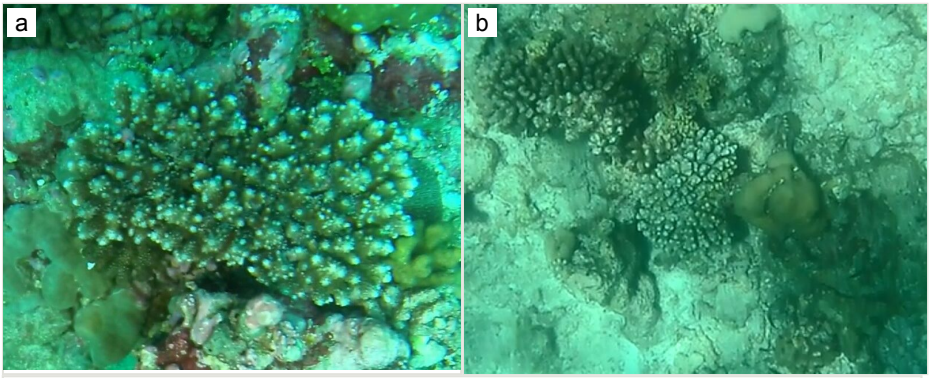

Figure 63.

Acropora sp. indet. 7

a: Laamu, 30 m; doi
b: Addu, 2 m. doi

Astreopora sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Astreopora* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Acroporidae; genus: *Astreopora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are massive or encrusting. Rounded conical polyps sometimes with immersed appearance and evenly spaced corallites. Corallites have coarse spinules and can be at irregular heights. Colony size ~ 15 cm in the longest dimension. Pink, cream or brown in colour (Fig. 64). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

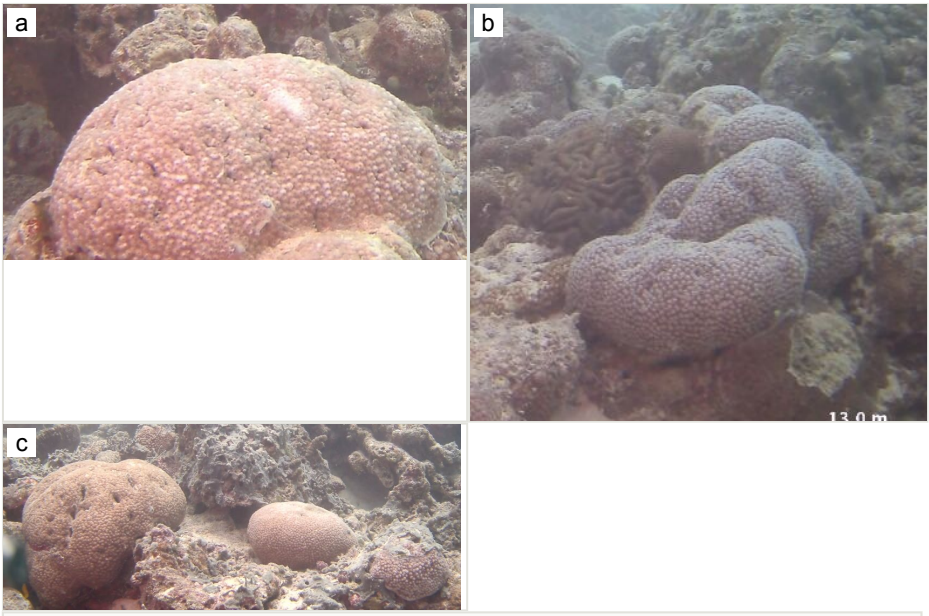

Figure 64.

Astreopora sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 10 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 13 m; doi
c: Vaavu, 10 m. doi

Montipora sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Montipora* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Acroporidae; genus: *Montipora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 61; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are thickly encrusting. Extremely small and poorly defined corallites are not visible on video images. Distinguished from *Porites* species by surface texture of monticules, papillae or tuberculae that are very grainy and rough. Colony size ~ 30 cm in the longest dimension. Colony surface can feature notches and bumps. Beige and brown shades (Fig. 65).

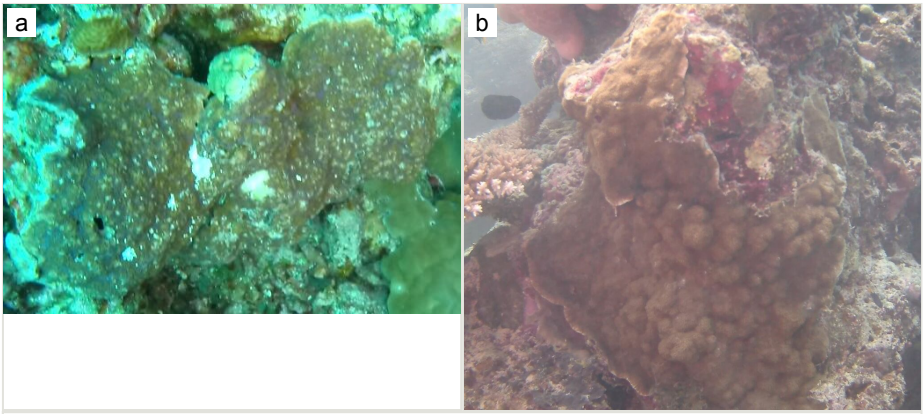

Figure 65.

Montipora sp. indet. 1

a: North Male', 10 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 10 m. doi

Montipora sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Montipora* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Acroporidae; genus: *Montipora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 61; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle

OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies form thick plates or laminae growth which can be tiered. Extremely small and poorly defined corallites are not visible on video images. Corallites are arranged in between coenosteum ridges in this species. Colony size ~ 35 cm in the longest dimension. Yellow to green shades with paler margins (Fig. 66). Same as *Montipora* sp. indet. reported in Fassbender et al. (2021) from the Seychelles.

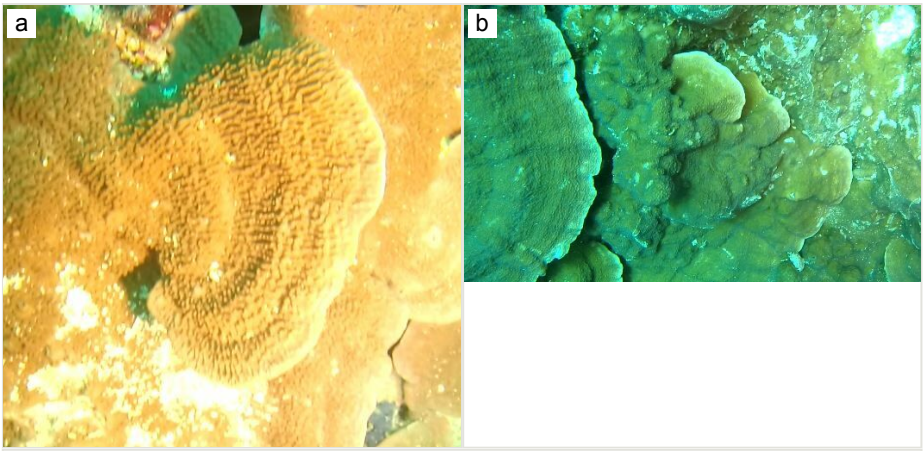

Figure 66.

Montipora sp. indet. 2

a: Huvadhu, 30 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 10 m. doi

Gardineroseris planulata (Dana, 1846)

Material

a. scientificName: *Gardineroseris planulata*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Agariciidae; genus: *Gardineroseris*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Dana, 1846); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Rounded colonies that are massive or sub-massive. Corallites lie in deep depressions with sharp-edged walls that give the colony a scalloped, honey-comb appearance. Deeper depressions of the corallites and lack of paliform lobes make it distinctive from *Coelastrea*. Colony size ~ 19 cm in the longest dimension. Colours range from yellowish to shades of light and dark brown. Officially, only this species of *Gardineroseris* has been officially recorded in Maldivian waters (Fig. 67).

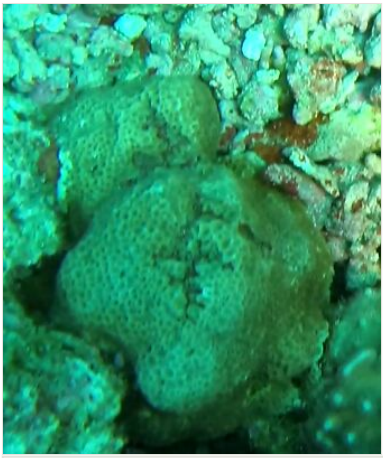

Figure 67. doi

Gardineroseris planulata, Laamu, 10 m.

Leptoseris sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Leptoseris* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Agariciidae; genus: *Leptoseris*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 61; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are typically encrusting or plating, unifacial and contorted, but affected by depth. Shallow colonies are more encrusting, while deeper colonies are more plated. Corallites do not have walls and are found between raised ridges. Colony size ~ 26 cm in the longest dimension. Generally, the appearance is wavy or granulated, but the deeper plating forms have small bumps on the colony surface. Pale to lighter shades of

yellow-brown. Likely to contain multiple species (Fig. 68). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

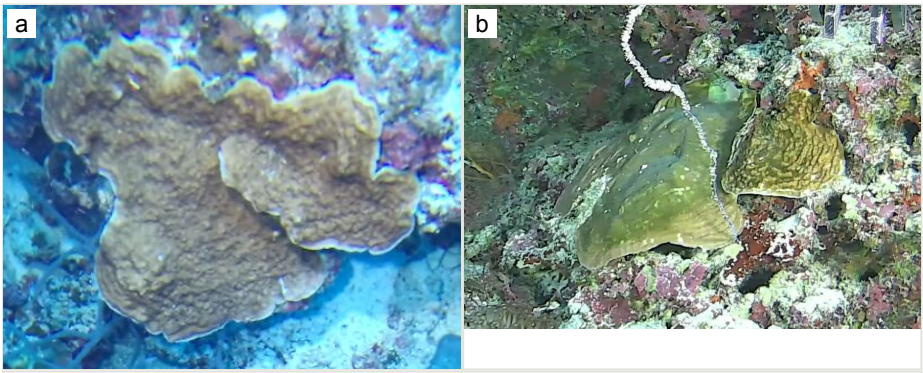

Figure 68.

Leptoseris sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 30 m; doi
b: Addu, 60 m. doi

Pavona varians (Verrill, 1864)

Material

a. scientificName: *Pavona varians*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Agariciidae; genus: *Pavona*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Encrusting colony with ridge-like surface. Green with pale edges. Colony size ~ 13 cm in the longest dimension. Corallites have walls that are poorly developed or linked by continuous septo-costae. Differentiated from visually similar encrusting *Leptoseris* by sharper edges to ridges (Fig. 69). Same as *Pavona* sp. indet. reported in Fassbender et al. (2021) from the Seychelles.

Pavona sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Pavona* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Agariciidae; genus: *Pavona*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu;

minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

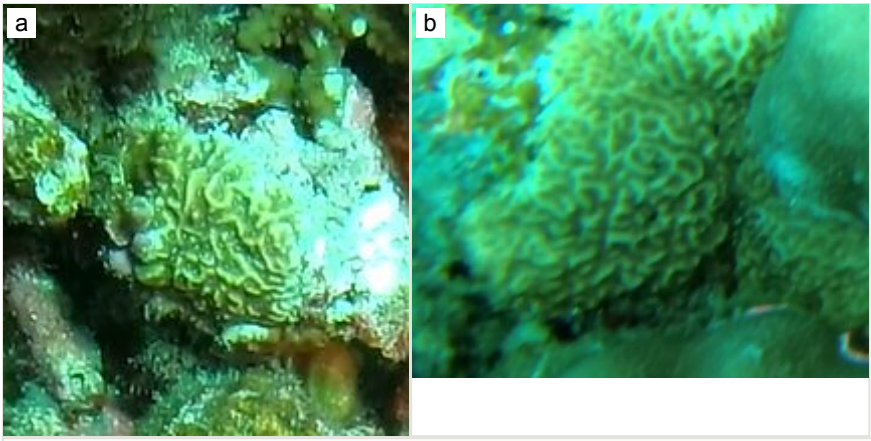

Figure 69.

Pavona varians.

a: Huvadhu, 10 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 10 m. doi

Notes

Sub-massive colonies with protruding columns. Colony size ~ 24 cm in the longest dimension. Corallites have no walls, but clearly delineated non-granular septocostae. Beige to darker shades of brown (Fig. 70).

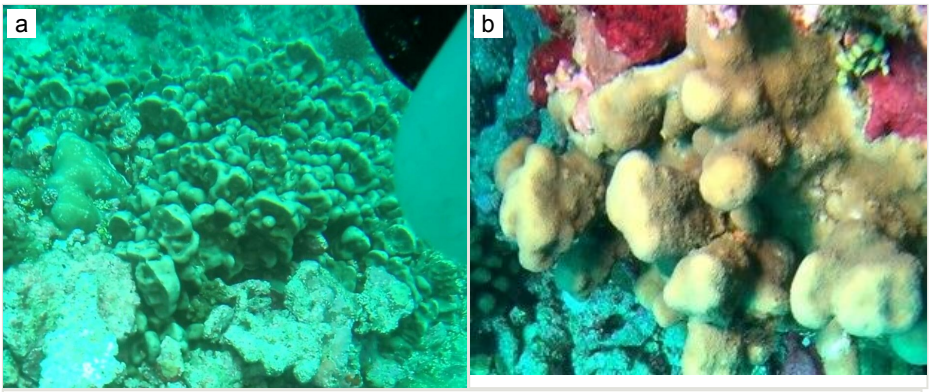

Figure 70.

Pavona sp. indet. 2

a: Laamu, 10 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 10 m. doi

Dendrophyllia sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Dendrophyllia* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Dendrophylliidae; genus: *Dendrophyllia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 249; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Visually similar to an anemone, but anemones are solitary, while this is colonial made up of at least three polyps. Corallites cup-shaped with long tentacles. Size ~ 5 cm in height. Yellow in colour (Fig. 71).

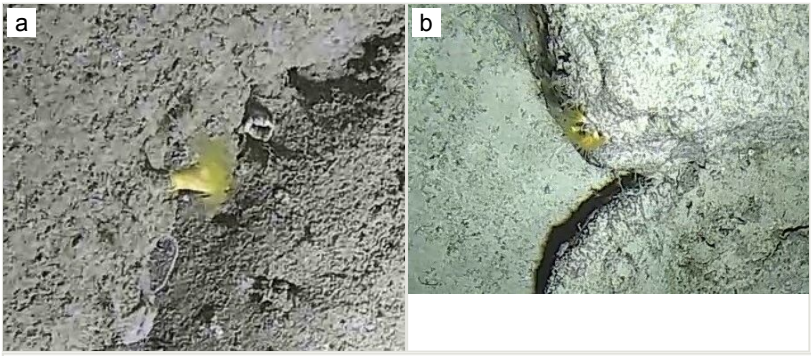

Figure 71.

Dendrophyllia sp. indet.

a: North Male', 490 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 490 m. doi

Tubastraea sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Tubastraea* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Dendrophylliidae; genus: *Tubastraea*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: B

Notes

Small branching colony with erect tubular corallites that emerge from a singular base. These corals are azooxanthellate ahermatypic corals. Size ~ 8 cm in height. Yellow to orange in colour (Fig. 72). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Figure 72. doi

Tubastraea sp. indet., North Male', 60 m.

Turbinaria sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Turbinaria* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Dendrophylliidae; genus: *Turbinaria*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are foliaceous to plating. Corallites usually only on one surface, round and well-spaced from each other; often form tubular raised mounts giving the coral a bumpy texture (Fig. 73). Colony size ~ 27 cm in the longest dimension. Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Duncanopsammia peltata (Esper, 1790)

Material

a. scientificName: *Duncanopsammia peltata*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Dendrophylliidae; genus:

Duncanopsammia; scientificNameAuthorship: (Esper, 1790); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

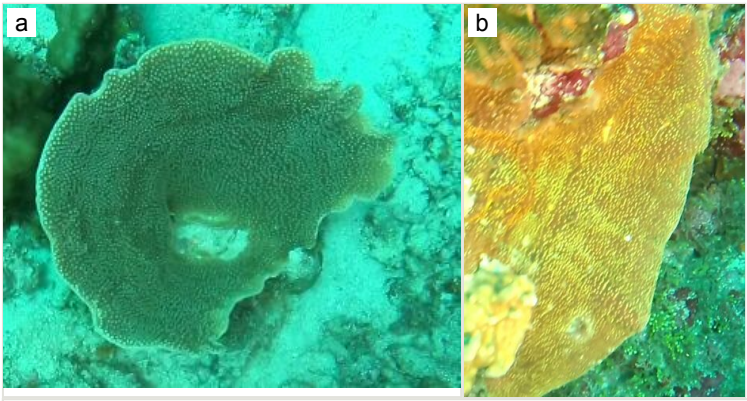

Figure 73.

Turbinaria sp. indet.

a: North Male', 10 m; doi
b: Laamu, 30 m. doi

Notes

Large immersed corallites often forming plates. Previously under coral genera *Turbinaria*. Only one species is recorded under this genera from Maldives (Fig. 74).

Figure 74. doi

Duncanopsammia peltata, Huvadhu, 30 m.

Balanophyllia sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Balanophyllia* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Dendrophylliidae; genus: *Balanophyllia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: TBD; maximumDepthInMeters: TBD; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Solitary colony with cylindrical corallum. Size ~ 4 cm in height. Yellow in colour (Fig. 75).

Figure 75. doi

Balanophyllia sp. indet., Huvadhu, 490 m.

Diploastrea heliopora Matthai, 1914

Material

a. scientificName: *Diploastrea heliopora*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa; order: Scleractinia; family: Diploastraeidae; genus: *Diploastrea*; scientificNameAuthorship: Matthai, 1914; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu, Vaavu, North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 0B4AA070-88E8-58B6-BBCF-EC9C1E66B304

Notes

Colonies massive to submassive with conspicuous corralites. Dark green to brown colourations. Colony size ~ 16 cm in the longest dimension (Fig. 76).

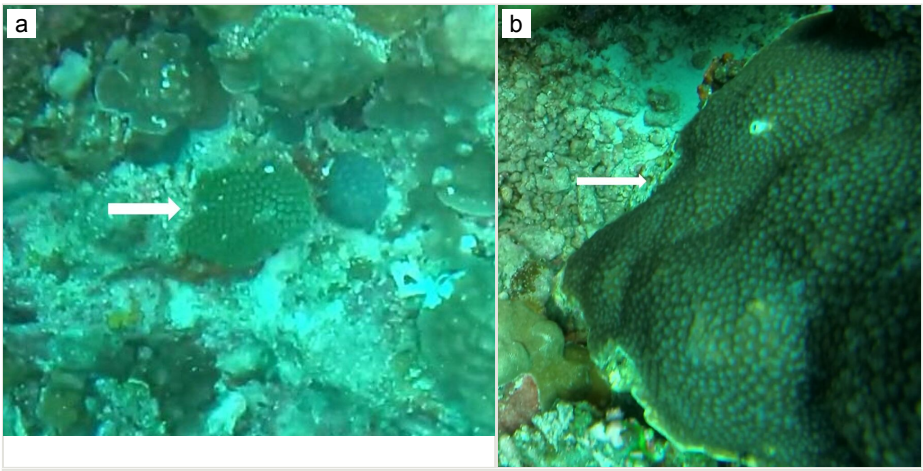

Figure 76.

Diploastrea heliopora.

a: Vaavu, 10 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 10 m. doi

Galaxea sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Galaxea* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Euphyllidae; genus: *Galaxea*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Distinctive massive or thick colonies. Tall, blade-like septa that extend outwards from the colony surface. The spiky appearance may be obscured by tentacles that extend during the daytime. Colony size ~ 11 cm in the longest dimension. Green to brown with yellow variants (Fig. 77). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

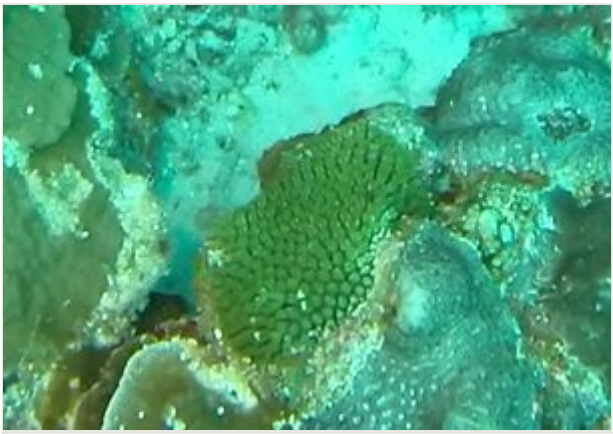

Figure 77. doi

Galaxea sp. indet., Vaavu, 10 m.

Dipsastraea sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: ***Dipsastraea*** sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Faviidae; genus: ***Dipsastraea***; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Massive, sub-massive or encrusting colonies. Corallites are highly plocoid to almost-cerioid roughly equal in size and do not share walls. Intra-tentacular budding may be observed (Fig. 78). Colony size ~ 16 cm in the longest dimension. Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Heliofungia actiniformis (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833)

Material

a. scientificName: ***Heliofungia actiniformis***; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Fungiidae; genus: ***Heliofungia***; scientificNameAuthorship: (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified

only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: E5D74ABD-DDE5-598F-A0B6-28C02670828A

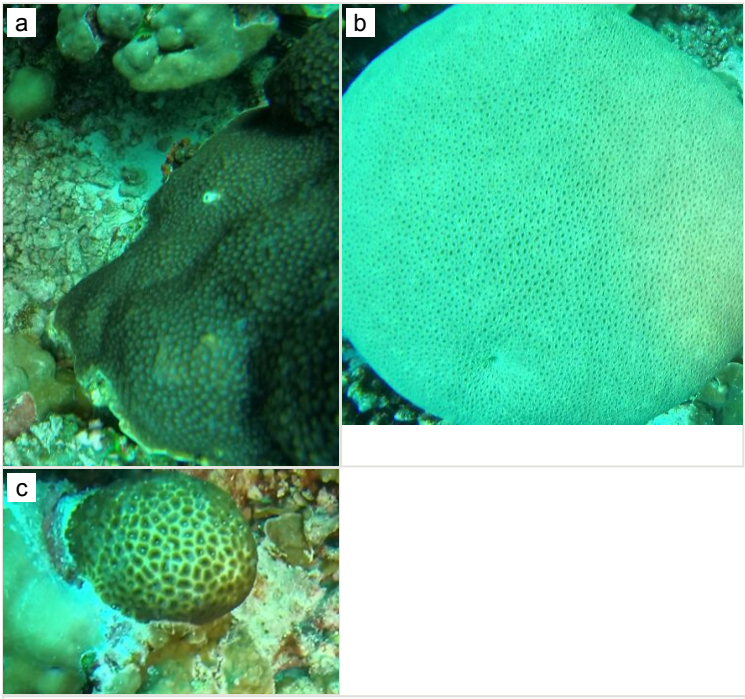

Figure 78.

Dipsastraea sp. indet.

a: Huvadhu, 10 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 10 m; doi
c: Vaavu, 10 m. doi

Notes

Solitary, free living corals. Juvenile colonies may remain attached to the substrate. Septa are granulate and continue to the underside of the corallum as fine ridges known as costae. Polyp is thick and fleshy and has a single mouth surrounded by thick tentacles with knobs on the end. Colony size ~ 15 cm in the longest dimension. Resembles a large anemone as it extends its tentacles during the daytime. Officially, only one species of *Heliofungia* has been recorded in Maldivian waters (Fig. 79).

Fungiidae gen. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Fungiidae sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Fungiidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters:

2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

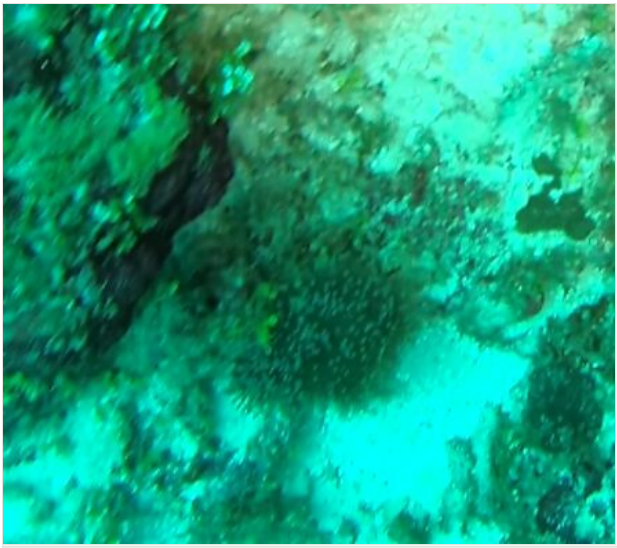

Figure 79. doi

Heliofungia actiniformis, Laamu, 30 m.

Notes

Solitary, free-living colonies. Septa radiate out from the slit-like central mouth, forming oval to circular discs. Size ~ 11 cm in the longest dimension, but individuals can grow to reach up to 30 cm. This group includes multiple genus/species (*Lobactis* spp., *Danafungia* spp. and *Cycloseris* spp.) that are challenging to differentiate from imagery (Fig. 80). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Herpolitha sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Herpolitha* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Fungiidae; genus: *Herpolitha*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 8; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

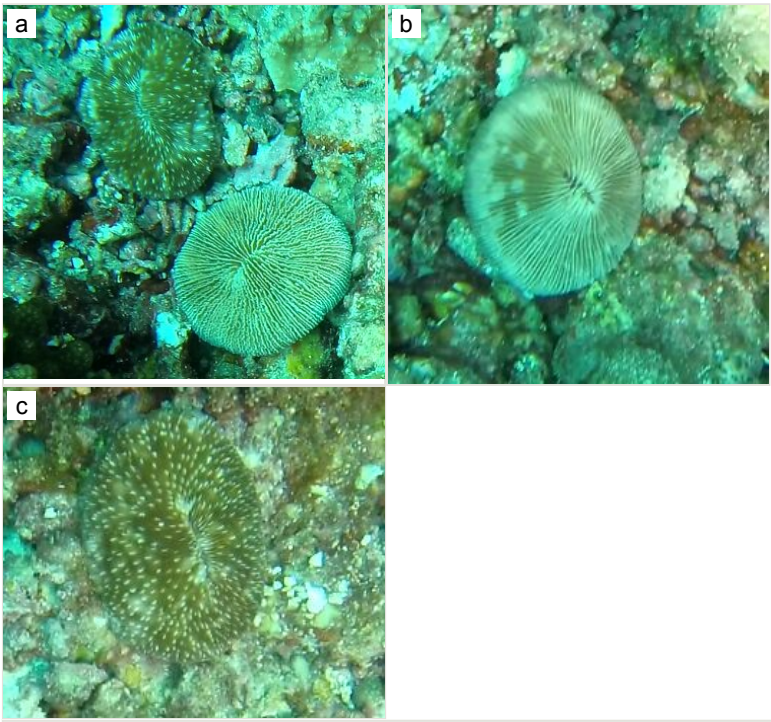

Figure 80.

Fungiidae gen. sp. indet. 1

a: *F. lobactis*, *F. danafungia* North Male', 30 m; doi
b: *F. cycloseris*, North Male', 10 m; doi
c: *F. lobactis*, North Male', 10 m. doi

Notes

Forms elongated discs with an axial furrow that may extend to reach the colony edge. Septa are alternating and are non-continuous from the axial furrow to the sides. Size ~ 18 cm in the longest dimension. Secondary mouths may be observed along the axial furrow on individuals belonging to *Herpolitha*, but this is not always easily seen on video (Fig. 81).

Halomitra sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Halomitra* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Fungiidae; genus: *Halomitra*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir;

dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

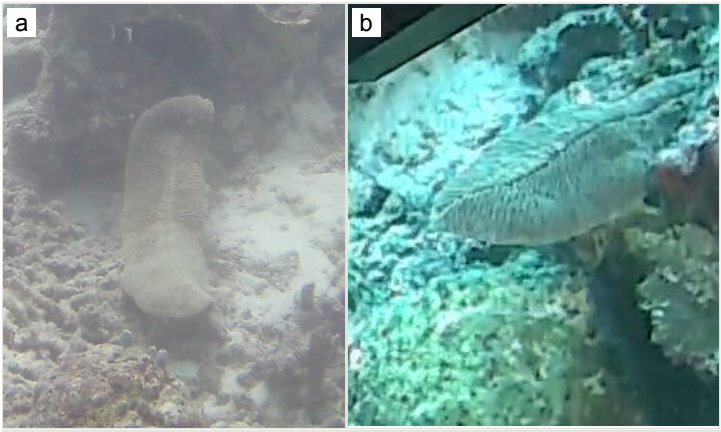

Figure 81.

Herpolitha sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 10 m; doi
b: Addu, 28 m. doi

Notes

Free-living, flat, domed or bell-shaped and oval growth forms are commonly observed. Corallites are often white. Size ~ 27 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration pale brown with bright pink or purple margin. Features similar to *Halomitra clavator* (Fig. 82).

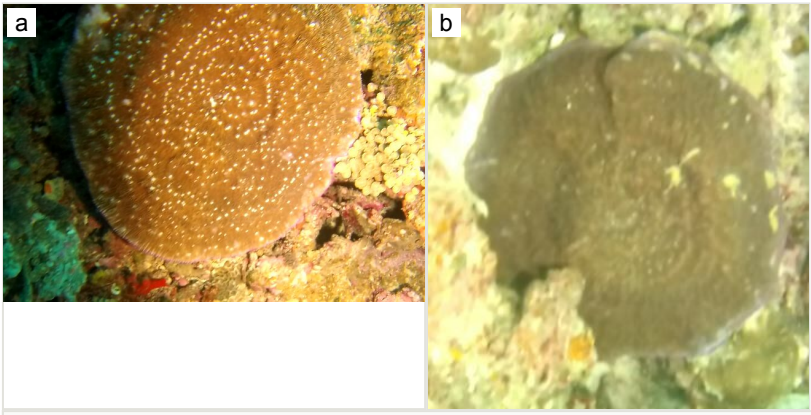

Figure 82.

Halomitra sp. indet.

a: Addu, 30 m; doi
b: Addu, 30 m. doi

Lithophyllon undulatum sp. inc. Rehberg, 1892

Material

a. scientificName: *Lithophyllon undulatum*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Fungiidae; genus: *Lithophyllon*; scientificNameAuthorship: Rehberg, 1892; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 65; maximumDepthInMeters: 65; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Encrusting colonies which form a flat lamina with lobed margins. Size ~ 10 cm in the longest dimension. Brownish-red in colour with protruding septo-costae (Fig. 83).

Figure 83.

Lithophyllon undulatum sp. inc.

a: Vaavu, 65 m, *in situ* photo of MAL1_638; doi
b: Vaavu, 65 m, collected specimen MAL1_638. doi

Pachyseris rugosa (Lamarck, 1801)

Material

a. scientificName: *Pachyseris rugosa*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Incerta saedis; genus: *Pachyseris*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Lamarck, 1801); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 8; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies encrusting, with surface covered in a series of concentric ridges that are either parallel to colony margins or contorted. Colony size ~ 14 cm in the longest dimension (Fig. 84).

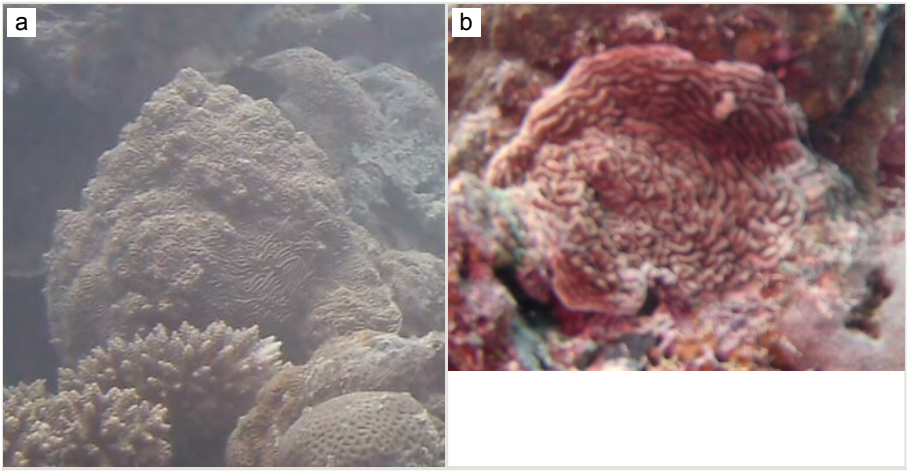

Figure 84.

Pachyseris rugosa

a: Vaavu, 10 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 10 m. doi

Pachyseris speciosa (Dana, 1846)

Material

a. scientificName: *Pachyseris speciosa*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Incerta saedis; genus: *Pachyseris*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Dana, 1846); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 8; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 3E30EDD5-32FA-55B9-8449-638953ADC254

Notes

Colony laminar and unifacial. Surface shows a more ridged appearance with corallite in between ridges. Colony size ~ 25 cm in the longest dimension. Darker brown with paler margins (Fig. 85).

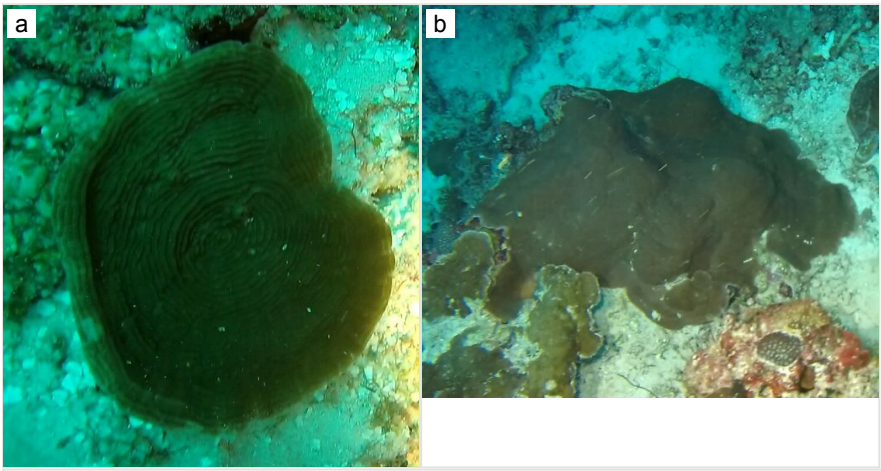

Figure 85.

Pachyseris speciosa

a: Laamu, 30 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 30 m. doi

Physogyra lichtensteini (Milne Edwards & Haime, 1851)

Material

a. scientificName: ***Physogyra lichtensteini***; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Incerta saedis; genus: ***Physogyra***; scientificNameAuthorship: (Milne Edwards & Haime, 1851); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are massive or thickly encrusting. Colony surface is entirely covered in bubble-like, teardrop-shaped vesicles giving a fuzzy appearance. Vesicles paler white than the rest of the colony. When vesicles are constricted, shared walls of corallites that form valleys can be observed. Colony size ~ 20 cm in the longest dimension (Fig. 86).

Plerogyra sinuosa (Dana, 1846)

Material

a. scientificName: ***Plerogyra sinuosa***; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Incerta saedis; genus: ***Plerogyra***;

scientificNameAuthorship: (Dana, 1846); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 26; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

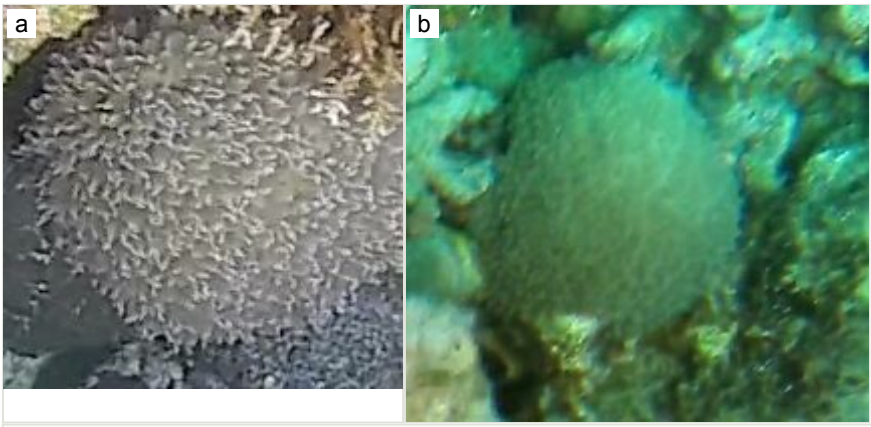

Figure 86.

Physogyra lichtensteini

a: Addu, 30 m; doi
b: Addu, 10 m. doi

Notes

Colonies are flabello-meandroid with valleys thinly connected by a light blistery coenosteum. Has a bubbly appearance. Colony size ~ 17 cm in the longest dimension. Cream to bluish-grey in colour (Fig. 87).

Figure 87. doi

Plerogyra sinuosa, Addu, 30 m.

Plesiastrea versipora (Lamarck, 1816)

Material

a. scientificName: *Plesiastrea versipora*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Incerta saedis; genus: *Plesiastrea*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Lamarck, 1816); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Massive encrusting colonies. Multiple colour variants mostly beige to brown-greens. Paliform lobes form a neat circle around small columellae. Colony size ~ 11 cm in the longest dimension. Only this species of *Plesiastrea* has been officially recorded in Maldivian waters (Fig. 88).

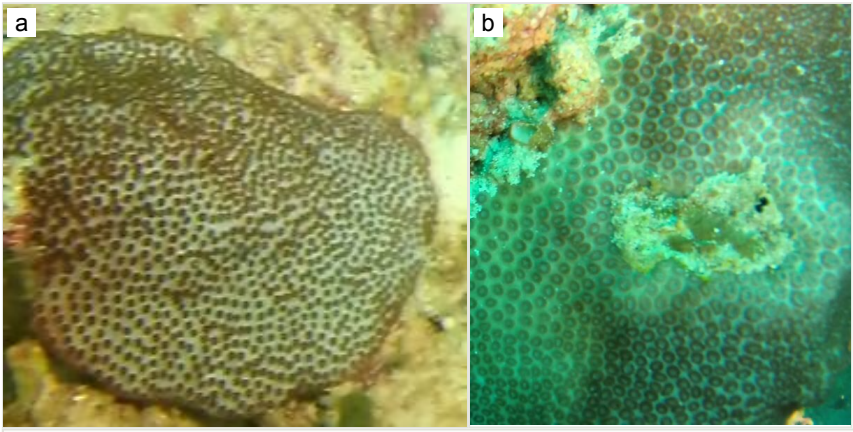

Figure 88.

Plesiastrea versipora

a: Huvadhu, 30 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 30 m. doi

Echinophyllia sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Echinophyllia* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Lobophyllidae; genus: *Echinophyllia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton

Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are thickly encrusting or laminar. Septae are numerous and form visible ridges running along the surface towards the edge of the colony which looks serrated. Corallites can be tubular and are generally spaced apart. Colony size ~ 29 cm in the longest dimension. The colour is dark green to brown (Fig. 89). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

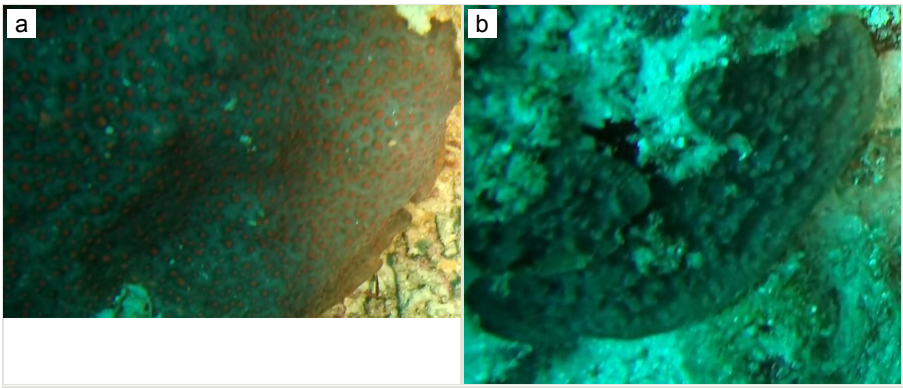

Figure 89.

Echinophyllia sp. indet.

a: Huvadhu, 30 m; doi
b: Laamu, 30 m. doi

Lobophyllia sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Lobophyllia* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Lobophyllidae; genus: *Lobophyllia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are massive to sub-massive and sometimes encrusting. Corallites can have separate or shared walls. Most observations were of species with shared walls.

Corallites form both short and long valleys. Colonies have a spikey, carpet-like texture due to large septal teeth. Colony size ~ 18 cm in the longest dimension. Colour can range from greenish-brown, yellow and purple (Fig. 90). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

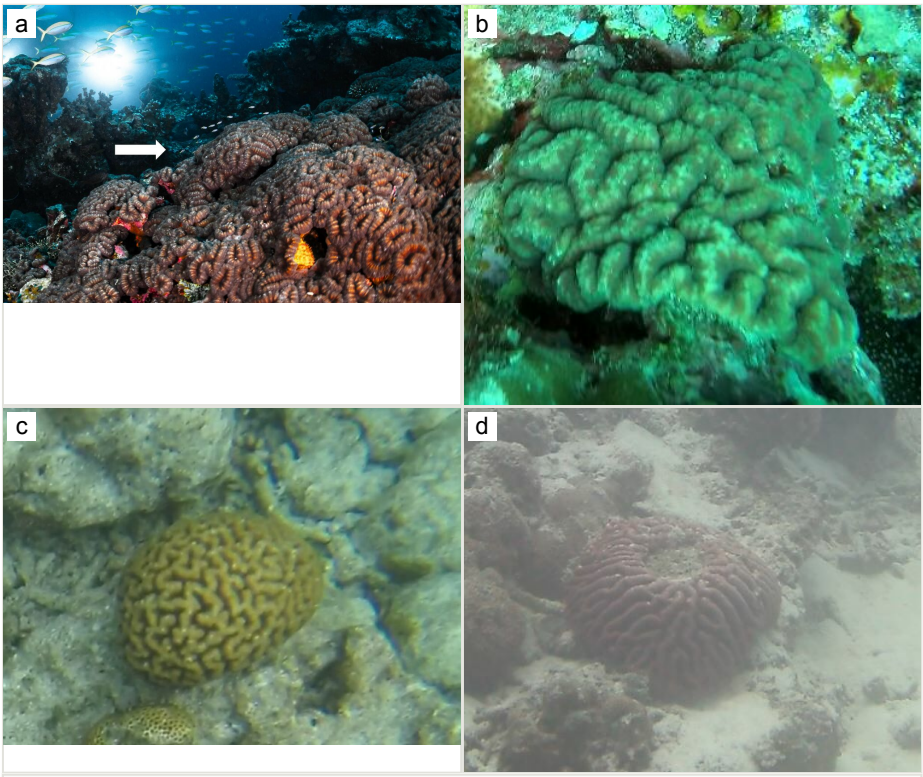

Figure 90.

Lobophyllia sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 10-30 m; doi
b: North Male', 10 m; doi
c: Vaavu, 2 m; doi
d: Vaavu, 10 m. doi

Oxypora crassispinosa Nemenzo, 1979

Material

a. scientificName: *Oxypora crassispinosa*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Lobophyllidae; genus: *Oxypora*; scientificNameAuthorship: Nemenzo, 1979; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 26; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam

Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Laminar colonies, forming thin plates, sometimes forming tiers. Colony size ~ 32 cm in the longest dimension. With thin-walled, meandering valleys, some branch towards the centre. Colour from light brown to grey or green (Fig. 91).

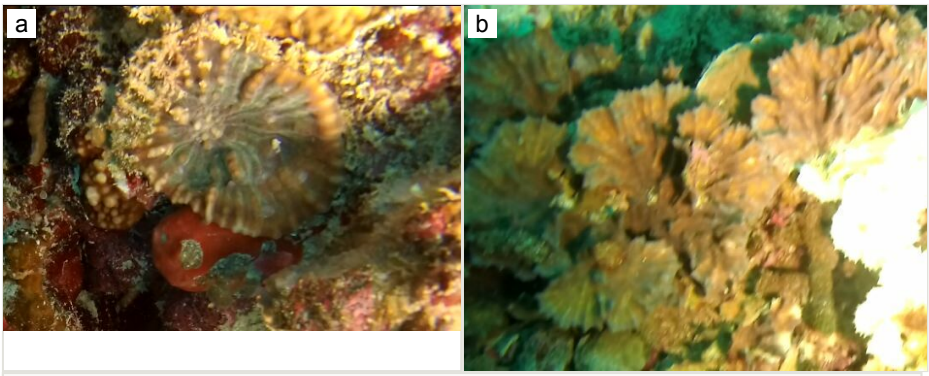

Figure 91.

Oxypora crassispinosa

a: Vaavu, 30 m; doi
b: Addu, 30 m. doi

Coelastrea sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Coelastrea* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Merulinidae; genus: *Coelastrea*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Huvadhu, Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Massive, sub-massive or encrusting colonies. Corallites are highly plocoid and can have a scalloped appearance. Corallites can sometimes form short valleys. Colony size ~ 28 cm in the longest dimension. There are well developed and prominent paliform lobes in the corallites, but can be difficult to see in video images. Brownish-green in colour (Fig. 92).

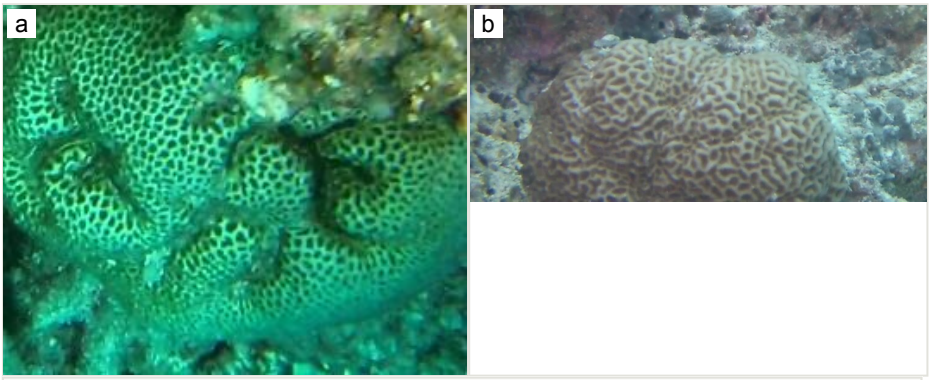

Figure 92.

Coelastrea sp. indet.

a: Fuvahmulah, 10 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 10 m. doi

Echinopora sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Echinopora* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Merulinidae; genus: *Echinopora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies encrusting or laminar. Corallites have their own walls, are uniformly shaped and elevated from the colony surface. Septa are exerted and have strongly beaded costae. Colony size ~ 23 cm in the longest dimension. Brown to greenish colour morphs are usually observed (Fig. 93). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Favites sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Favites* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Merulinidae; genus: *Favites*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR

Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

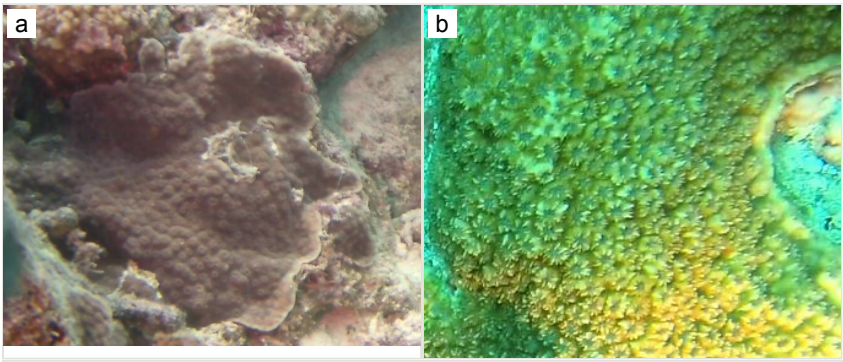

Figure 93.

Echinopora sp. indet.

a: *Echinopora* sp. indet., Vaavu, 10 m; doi
b: *Echinopora hirsutissima*, Addu, 10 m. doi

Notes

Colonies massive, sub-massive or encrusting. Corallites are cerioid, with oblong or polygonal calyces of even size. Species from this genus can have corallites with separate or shared walls. Corallite walls can be smooth or serrated-looking. Colony size ~ 15 cm in the longest dimension. Extra-tentacular budding can be observed on colonies (Fig. 94). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

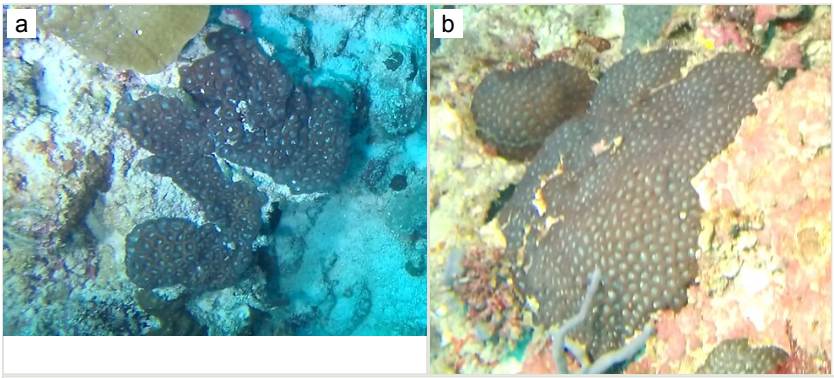

Figure 94.

Favites sp. indet.

a: Huvadhu, 30 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 30 m. doi

Goniastrea sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Goniastrea* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Merulinidae; genus: *Goniastrea*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are typically massive, occasionally sub-massive and encrusting. Colony size ~ 18 cm in the longest dimension. The septo-costae are neatly arranged around the corallite chalices. Corallites can have distinct separate walls or have shared walls. Prominent paliform lobes are present, but can be difficult to see from video images (Fig. 95). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

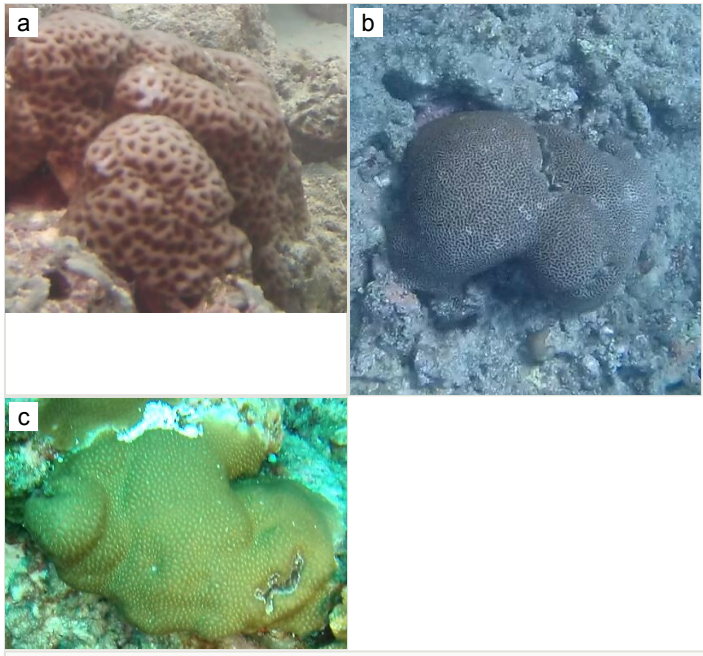

Figure 95.

Goniastrea sp. indet.

b: Vaavu, 10 m; doi
c: North Male', 10 m. doi

Hydnophora sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Hydnophora* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Merulinidae; genus: *Hydnophora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are massive or encrusting. Colony size ~ 19 cm in the longest dimension. The colony has small corallites and are found between in skeletal bumps ('monticules') that appear pyramid shaped. Colonies can have a shaggy appearance during the daytime if the polyps extend their tentacles (Fig. 96). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

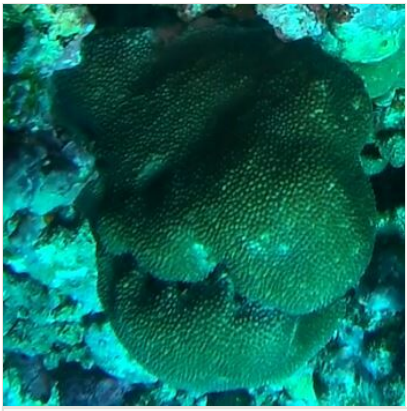

Figure 96. doi

Hydnophora sp. indet., Laamu, 10 m.

Leptoria sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Leptoria* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Merulinidae; genus: *Leptoria*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022,

2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are generally massive and meandroid or sub-meandroid, with thick walls. Colonies have walls that have a characteristic zipper-like appearance due to exerted, evenly spaced and samesized septa. Colony size ~ 17 cm in the longest dimension. Colonies have a ragged appearance, but less so than *Platygyra*. Distinct groves and ridges give a maze-like appearance (Fig. 97).

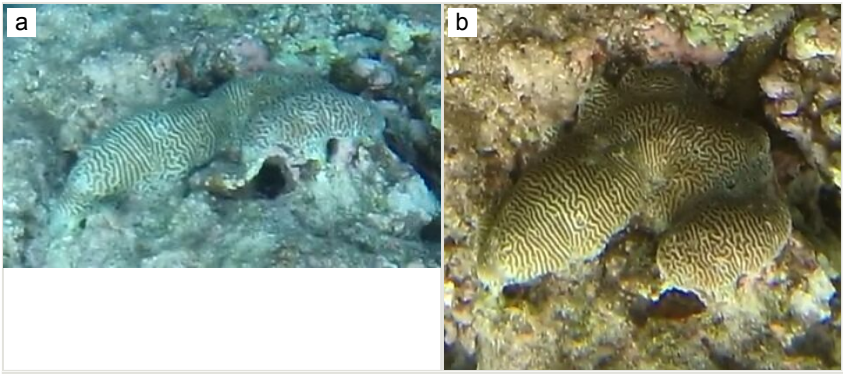

Figure 97.

Leptoria sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 2 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 2 m. doi

Merulina sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Merulina* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Merulinidae; genus: *Merulina*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Laminar colonies with valleys that radiate from the centre, becoming contorted at branches. Older colonies may have multiple interconnected plates creating layers. Corallites walls are fused. Colony size ~ 38 cm in the longest dimension (Fig. 98).

Figure 98. doi

Merulina sp. indet., Addu, 30 m.

Mycedium sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Mycedium* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Merulinidae; genus: *Mycedium*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are laminar or plating. Large, round or oval protuberant corallites. Colony size ~ 17 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration: brown to yellow. Similar to *Echinophyllia* but distinguished by corallites that incline towards the colony margin (Fig. 99).

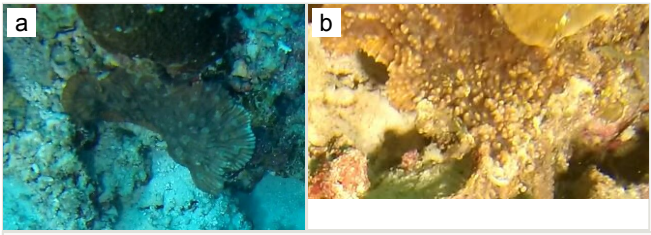

Figure 99.

Mycedium sp. indet.

a: North Male', 30 m; doi
b: Addu, 30 m. doi

Oulophyllia sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Oulophyllia* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Merulinidae; genus: *Oulophyllia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 8; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are massive or thickly encrusting along the substrate. Colony size ~ 12 cm in the longest dimension. Corallites have shared walls that can form valleys of varying length in some species. Corallites are larger and deeper than *Favites* and the valleys are wider and larger than *Platygyra* (Fig. 100). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Figure 100. doi

Oulophyllia sp. indet., Huvadhu, 30 m.

Paragoniastrea russelli sp. inc. (Wells, 1954)

Material

a. scientificName: *Paragoniastrea russelli*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Merulinidae; genus: *Paragoniastrea*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Wells, 1954); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely

Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Thick crusting massive colonies with deep meandering valleys. Previously grouped with *Goniastrea* and exhibits long valleys that appear with more regularly-shaped septa than *Platygyra* (Fig. 101).

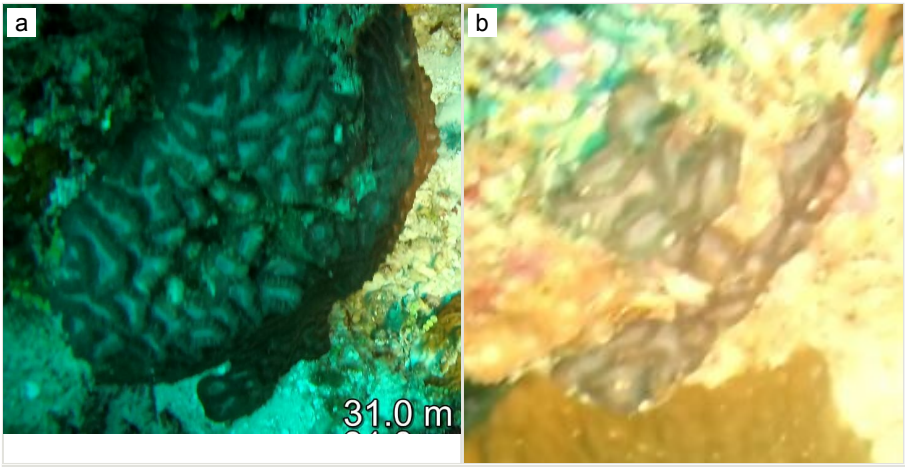

Figure 101.

Paragoniastrea russelli sp. inc.

a: Laamu, 30 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 3 m. doi

Platygyra sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Platygyra* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Merulinidae; genus: *Platygyra*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are typically massive and dome-shaped. Corallites are aligned in valleys of variable length. Corallite walls appear to alternate in size giving it a more ragged appearance than *Goniastrea* or *Leptoria*. *Platygyra* lacks the paliform lobes that are

characteristic of *Goniastrea*. Colony size ~ 18 cm in the longest dimension. Typically green or brown in colour (Fig. 102). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

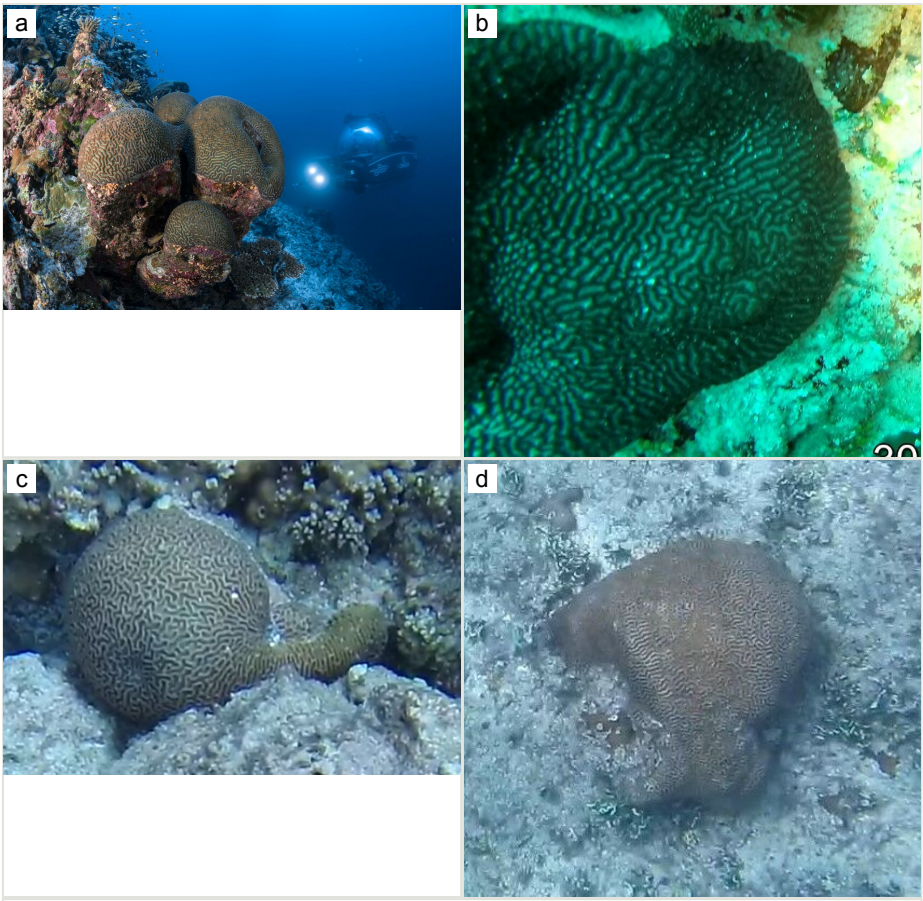

Figure 102.

Platygyra sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, ~10-30 m; doi
b: Laamu, 30 m; doi
c: Vaavu, 2 m; doi
d: North Male', 5 m. doi

Madracis sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Madracis* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Pocilloporidae; genus: *Madracis*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 57; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton

Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Stalked colonies with branches that appear short, rounded and knobbly. Colonies ~ 53 cm in height. Resembles *M. asanoi* and *M. brueggermanni* (Fig. 103).

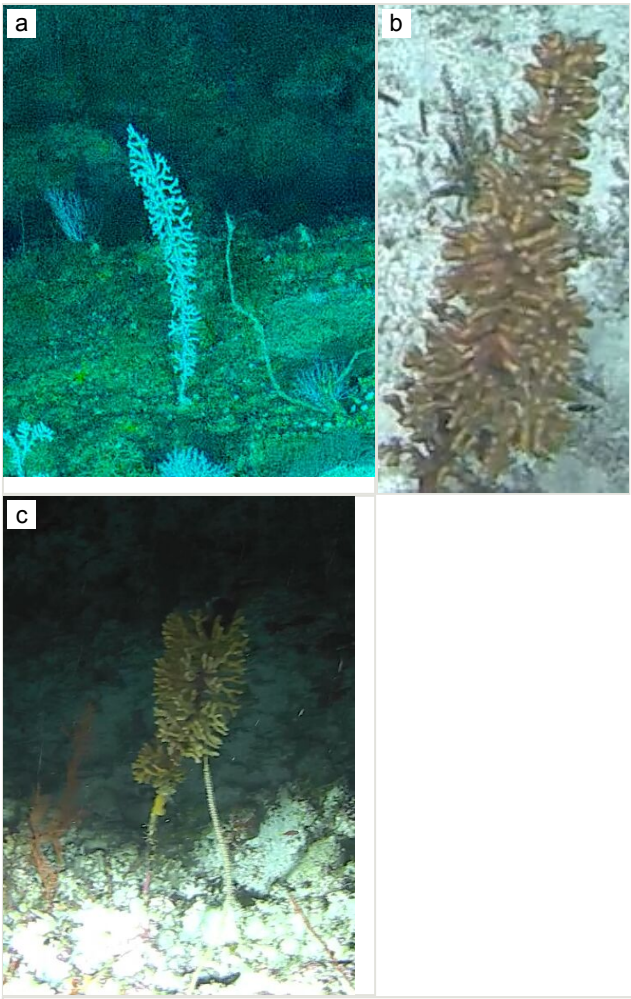

Figure 103.

Madracis sp. indet.

a: Fuvahmulah, 120 m; doi
b: Laamu, 60 m; doi
c: Huvadhu, 120 m. doi

Pocillopora sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Pocillopora* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Pocilloporidae; genus: *Pocillopora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2.5; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies form wide plates with branches usually evenly spaced. Colonies are usually attached on one side and do not form clumps. Colony surface covered in skeletal bumps (‘verrucae’) giving a rather spiky/rough appearance. Colony size ~ 30 cm in the longest dimension. Resembles *P. woodjonesi* (Fig. 104).

Figure 104. doi

Pocillopora sp. indet. 1, Addu, 30 m.

Pocillopora sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Pocillopora* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Pocilloporidae; genus: *Pocillopora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022,

2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are composed of stout, upright, flattened branches. Dark green to light green/ yellow. Colony size ~ 25 cm in the longest dimension. Resembles *P. eydouxi* (Fig. 105).

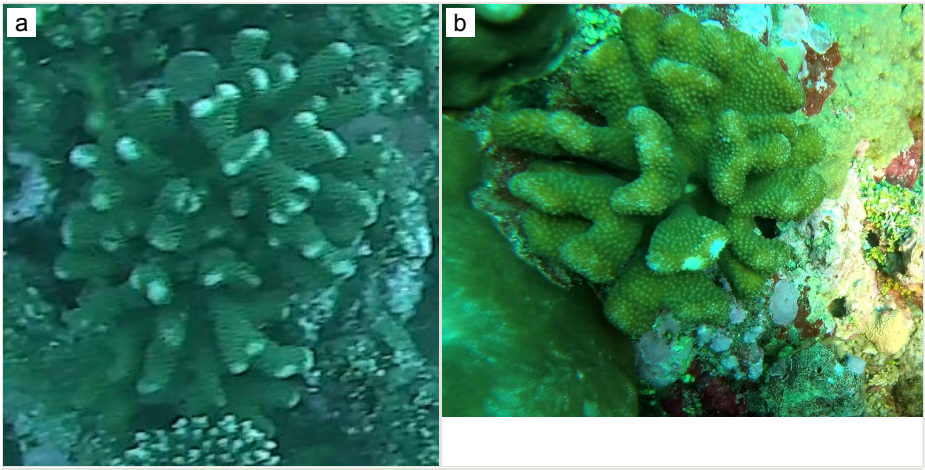

Figure 105.

Pocillopora sp. indet. 2

a: Addu, 30 m; doi
b: Laamu, 10 m. doi

Pocillopora sp. indet. 3

Material

a. scientificName: *Pocillopora* sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Pocilloporidae; genus: *Pocillopora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 8; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are small upright bushes forming a more clumped shape. Colony size ~ 19 cm in the longest dimension. Branches radiate from the initial point of growth. Verrucae are quite pronounced. Resembles *P. verrucosa* (Fig. 106).

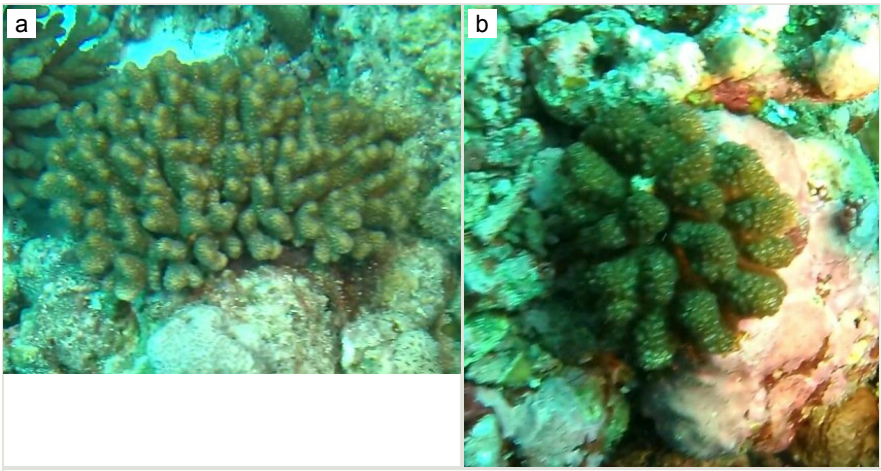

Figure 106.

Pocillopora sp. indet. 3

a: North Male', 10 m; doi
b: Laamu, 10 m. doi

Pocillopora sp. indet. 4

Material

a. scientificName: *Pocillopora* sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Pocilloporidae; genus: *Pocillopora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are usually compact clumps composed of uniform, thick, primarily upright branches with flattened ends. Colony size ~ 21 cm in the longest dimension. Brown to golden colour, although occasionally dark green. Resembles *P. elegans* and *P. meandrina* (Fig. 107).

Goniopora sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Goniopora* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Poritidae; genus: *Goniopora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu,

Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

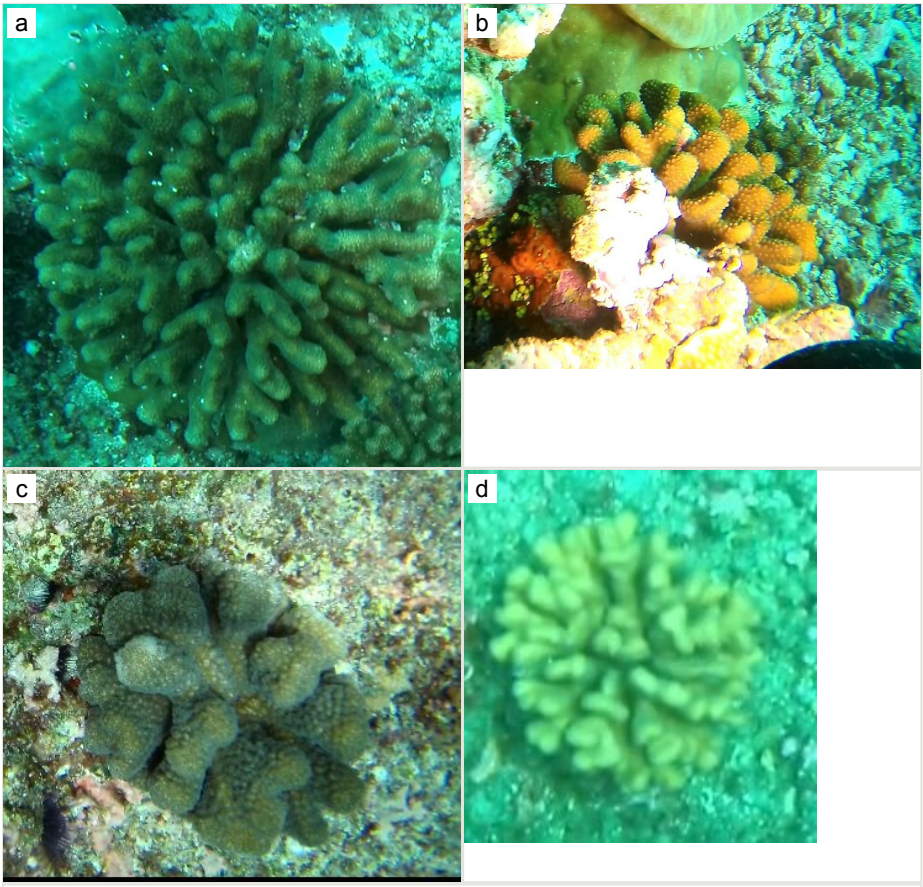

Figure 107.

Pocillopora sp. indet. 4

a: North Male', 10 m; doi
b: Laamu, 10 m; doi
c: Laamu, 2 m; doi
d: Huvadhu, 10 m. doi

Notes

Massive or sub-massive colonies. Distinctive genus characterised by tentacles that are extended during the day and night. Colony size ~ 32 cm in the longest dimension. Polyps appear flower-like and are characterised by 24 tentacles. Appears similar to *Alveopora* which has 12 tentacles, making it challenging to differentiate between the

two in video imagery (Fig. 108). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

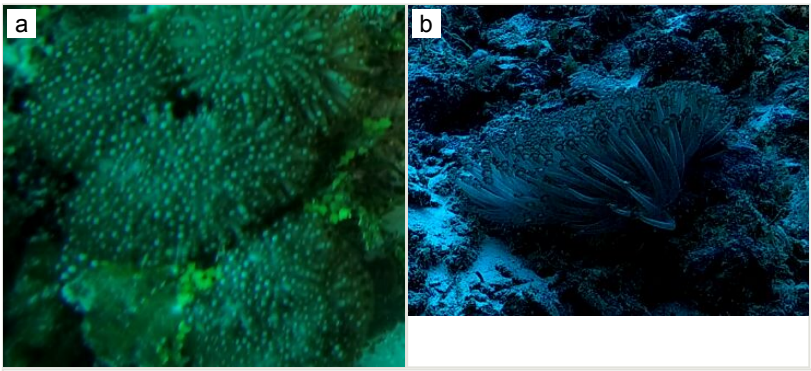

Figure 108.

Goniopora sp. indet.

a: Fuvahmulah, ~ 30-60 m. doi

Porites rus

Material

a. scientificName: ***Porites rus***; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Poritidae; genus: ***Porites***; scientificNameAuthorship: (Forskål, 1775); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Individual colonies can take on multiple morphologies shifting from encrusting, plating to branching. Branching portions of the colonies form short, stubby, contorted branches. Corallites are small and frequently hidden within the structure of the colony. Colony size ~ 29 cm in the longest dimension. Pale cream and yellowish-brown with tips of branches appearing more white (Fig. 109).

Porites sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: ***Porites*** sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Poritidae; genus: ***Porites***; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu,

Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 55; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

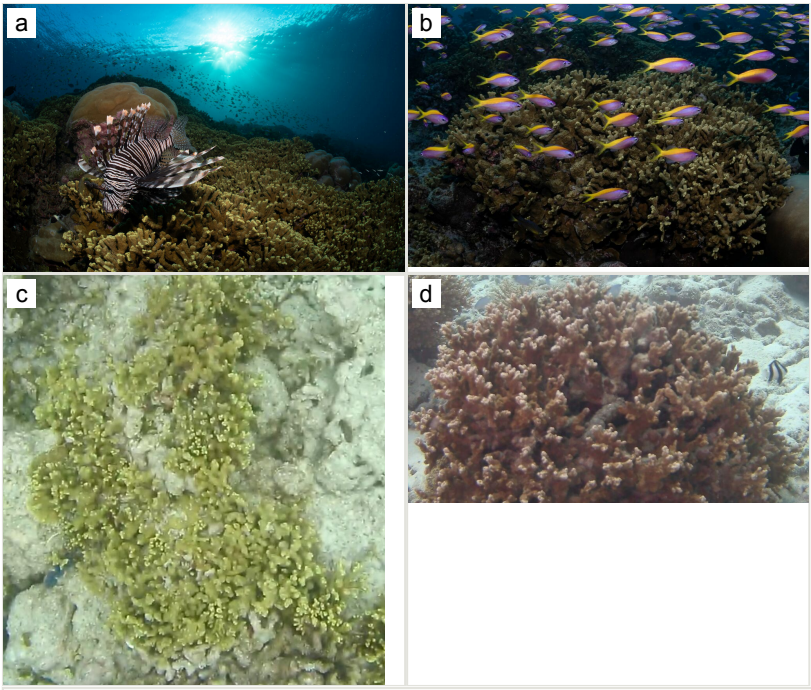

Figure 109.

Porites rus

a: Fuvahmulah, 10-30 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 10-30 m; doi
c: Vaavu, 2 m; doi
d: Vaavu, 10 m. doi

Notes

Massive to helmet-shaped colonies. Colony size ~ 26 cm in the longest dimension. Corallites are very small, giving a smooth appearance. Brown and green shades (Fig. 110). One of the most common morphotypes at depths < 60 m.

Porites sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Porites* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Poritidae; genus: *Porites*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu;

minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

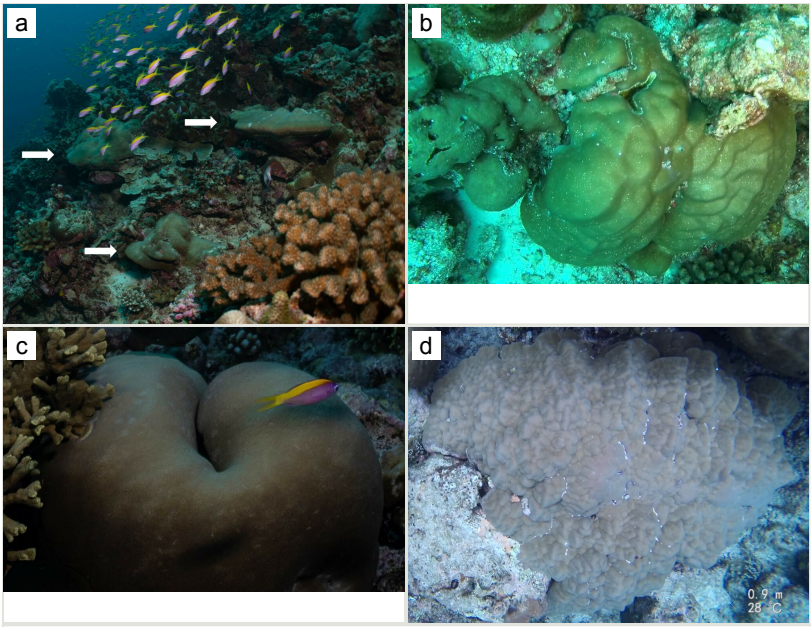

Figure 110.

Porites sp. indet. 1

a: Huvadhu, 10-30 m; doi
b: North Male', 10 m; doi
c: Fuvahmulah, 10-30 m; doi
d: Vaavu, 2 m. doi

Notes

Colonies with encrusting or plated bases with protruding branches. Colony size ~ 14 cm in the longest dimension. Medium length, thick stubby, branches with pale tips. Distinguished from *Porites rus* by regular and rounded branch stems. Brown and green in colour. Likely *P. cylindrica* (Fig. 111).

Porites sp. indet. 3

Material

a. scientificName: *Porites* sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Poritidae; genus: *Porites*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 26; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission;

samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

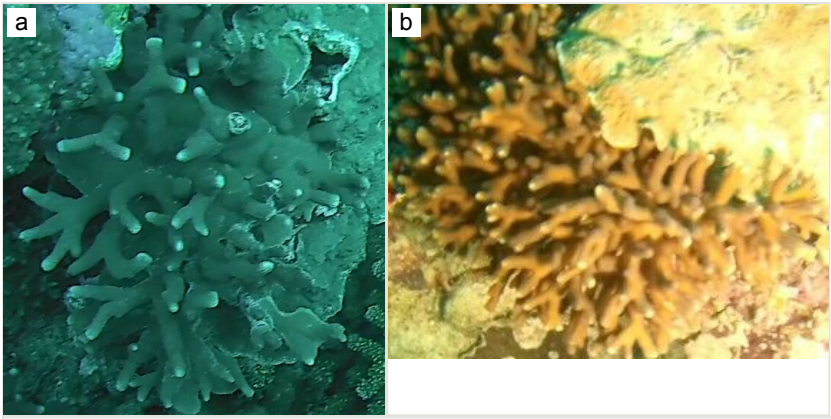

Figure 111.

Porites sp. indet. 2

a: Addu, 30 m; doi
b: Addu, 30 m. doi

Notes

Encrusting to plating colonies with very small corallites. Colony size ~ 39 cm in the longest dimension. Pale yellow-green to dark brown (Fig. 112).

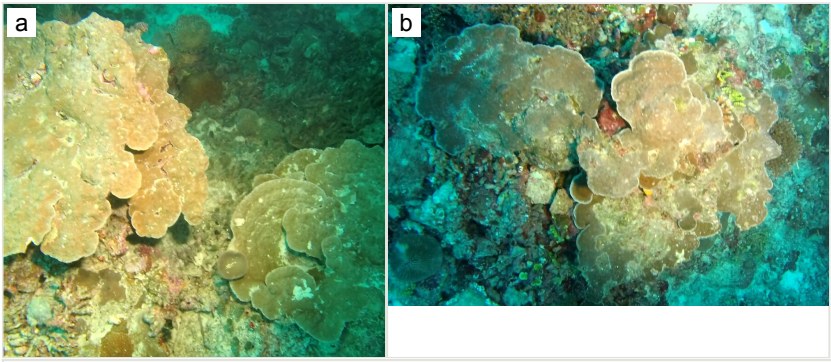

Figure 112.

Porites sp. indet. 3

a: Addu, 30 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 30 m. doi

Psammocora sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Psammocora* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Scleractinia; family: Psammocoridae; genus: *Psammocora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Mariyam Shidha Afzal, Hana Amir; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Sub-massive or thick encrusting colonies. Corallites are immersed and small forming valleys. Septa are in a distinctive petaloid pattern (Fig. 113).

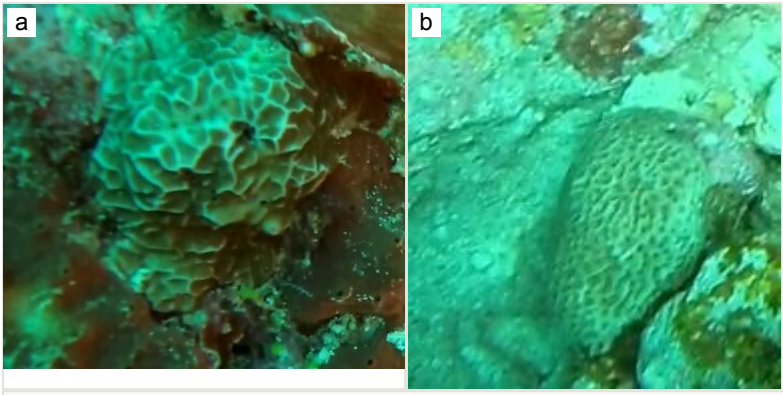

Figure 113.

Psammocora sp. indet.

a: Huvadhu, 30 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 10m. doi

Palythoa tuberculosa (Esper, 1805)

Material

a. scientificName: *Palythoa tuberculosa*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Zoantharia; family: Sphenopidae; genus: *Palythoa*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Esper, 1805); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 6F19890C-8840-5778-982A-3043C90B5A17

Notes

Encrusting zoanthid with a “slit” oral opening owing to the sphincter muscle. Has a well-developed coenenchyme forming a mat on the substratum. Colony size ~ 12 cm in the longest dimension. White, brown and grey in colour (Fig. 114). Similar to Zoantharia stet. seen in the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

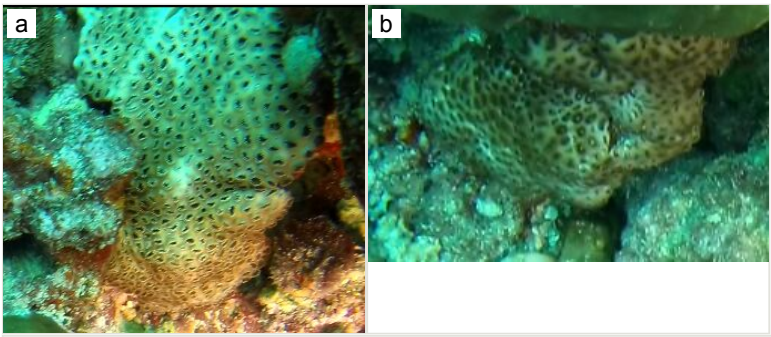

Figure 114.

Palythoa tuberculosa.

a: North Male’, 10 m; doi
b: North Male’, 10 m. doi

Palythoa sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Palythoa* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa; order: Zoantharia; family: Sphenopidae; genus: *Palythoa*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Flattened, large oral discs with short, rounded tentacles and septa visible. Colony size ~ 33 cm in the longest dimension. Lacks a sphincter muscle around the oral opening with some polyps having oral discs larger than 5 cm in diameter. Brown, green and beige in colour (Fig. 115).

Arachnopathes sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Arachnopathes* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Antipathidae; genus: *Arachnopathes*;

waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Figure 115. doi

Palythoa sp. indet. 2, Addu, 30 m.

Notes

Branched colony with dense fine interconnected branches giving a fluffy, bushy appearance. Colony size ~ 80 cm across longest dimension (Fig. 116).

Figure 116. doi

Arachnopathes sp. indet., Vaavu, 60 m.

Antipathes nilanduensis sp. inc. Cooper, 1903

Material

a. scientificName: ***Antipathes nilanduensis***; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Antipathidae; genus: ***Antipathes***; scientificNameAuthorship: Cooper, 1903; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 60; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are branching and mostly grow in a single pane with densely packed, fine branches. Colony height ~ 13 cm (Fig. 117).

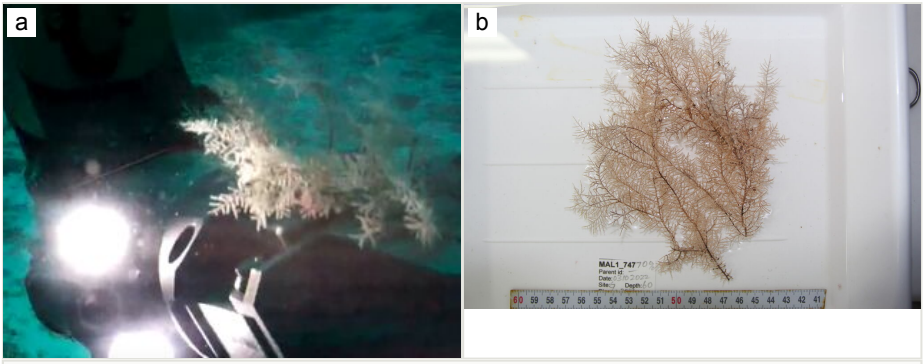

Figure 117.

Antipathes nilanduensis sp. inc.

a: North Male', 60 m, *in-situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_747; doi
b: North Male', 60 m, collected specimen MAL1_747. doi

Antipathes sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: ***Antipathes*** sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Antipathidae; genus: ***Antipathes***; scientificNameAuthorship: Pallas, 1766; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Tall, mainly bushy colonies, sparsely to densely branched with fine, elongated branches. Colony height ~ 127 cm (Fig. 118).

Figure 118. doi

Antipathes sp. indet. 2 Huvadhu, 60 m.

Antipathes sp. indet. 3

Material

a. scientificName: ***Antipathes*** sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Antipathidae; genus: ***Antipathes***; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 59; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are bushy, bramble-like with dense networks of branches. Colony height ~ 59 cm (Fig. 119).

Antipathes sp. indet. 4

Material

a. scientificName: ***Antipathes*** sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Antipathidae; genus: ***Antipathes***; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 63; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission;

samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

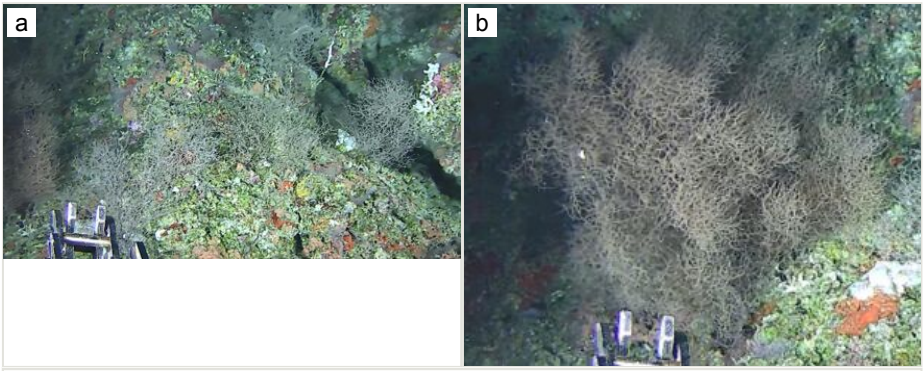

Figure 119.

Antipathes sp. indet. 3

a: Addu, 60 m; doi
b: Addu, 60 m. doi

Notes

Tall mainly bushy colonies, sparsely to densely-branched with fine, elongate branches. Colony height ~ 113 cm (Fig. 120).

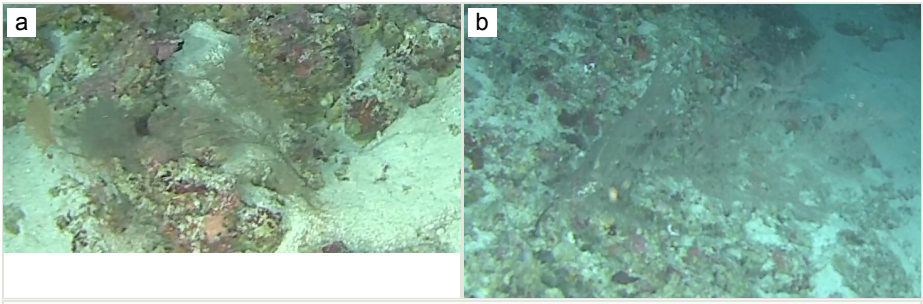

Figure 120.

Antipathes sp. indet. 4

a: Vaavu, 60 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 60 m. doi

Asteriopathes sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Asteriopathes* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Aphanipathidae; genus: *Asteriopathes*;

waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 116; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Upright tall colonies. Single flexible stem with fine radial pinnules giving a bottle-brush appearance. Size ~ 36 cm (Fig. 121).

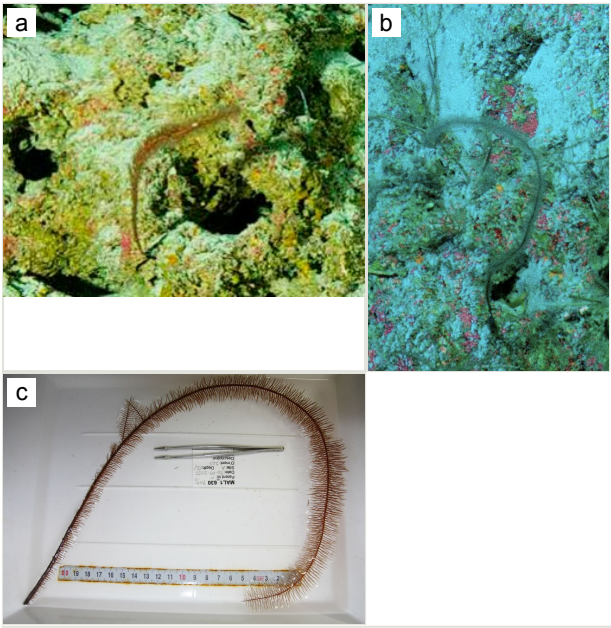

Figure 121.

Asteriopathes sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 121 m, in situ photo of collected specimen MAL1_630; doi
b: Laamu, 120 m; doi
c: Vaavu, 121 m, Collected specimen MAL1_630. doi

Tetrapathes sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Tetrapathes* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa; order: Antipatharia; family: Aphanipathidae; genus: *Tetrapathes*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu, Fuvahmulah, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 57; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR

Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies tall upright mainly moderately branched in a single plane. Stem and branches consist of multiple pinnules. Colony height ~ 51 cm. Colouration shades of yellow and pale brown. Collected specimens include *Tetrapathes alata* sp. inc. (Fig. 122).

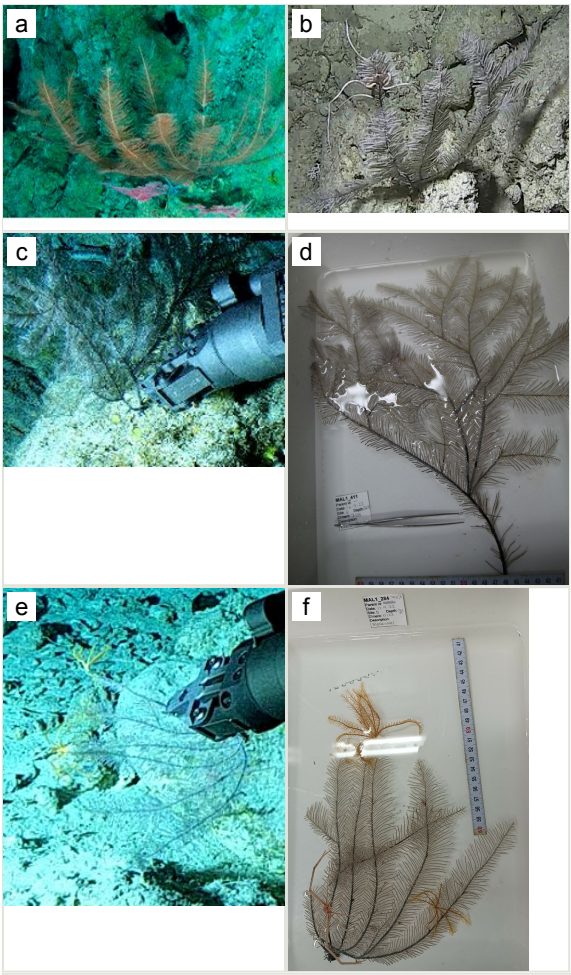

Figure 122.

Tetrapathes sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 60 m; doi
b: Addu, 250 m; doi
c: Fuvahmulah, 250 m, *in situ* of collected specimen MAL1_411; doi
d: Fuvahmulah, 250 m, Collected specimen MAL1_411 (*Tetrapathes* sp. indet.); doi
e: Addu, 262 m, *in situ* of collected specimen MAL1_284; doi
f: Addu, 262 m, Collected specimen MAL1_284 (*Tetrapathes alata* sp. inc.). doi

Bathypathes sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Bathypathes* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Schizopathidae; genus: *Bathypathes*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 249; maximumDepthInMeters: 253; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies have two rows of fine and long branches on either side of the central axis. Size ~ 31 cm. Branches are thin and rounded, giving the colony a feather-like appearance (Fig. 123).

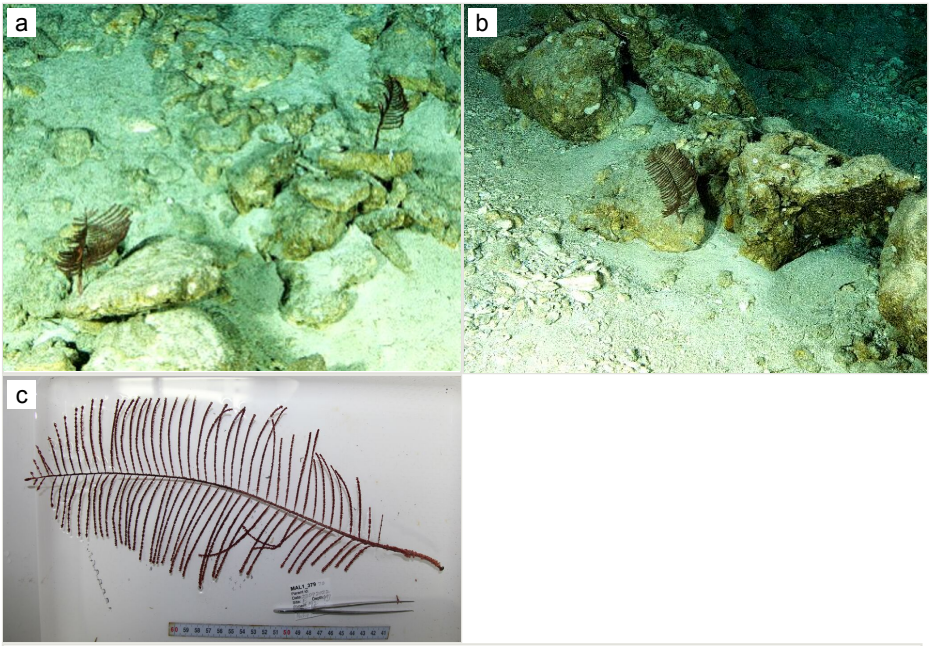

Figure 123.

Bathypathes sp. indet.

a: Fuvahmulah, 490 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 490 m, *in situ* of collected specimen MAL1_379; doi
c: Fuvahmulah, 490 m, collected specimen MAL1_379 (*Bathypathes pseudoalternata* sp. inc.). doi

Cupressopathes sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Cupressopathes* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Myriopathidae; genus: *Cupressopathes*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 53; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Columnar, monopodial or very sparsely branched colonies, with a thick bottle-brush appearance (Fig. 124). Colony height ~ 84 cm. Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

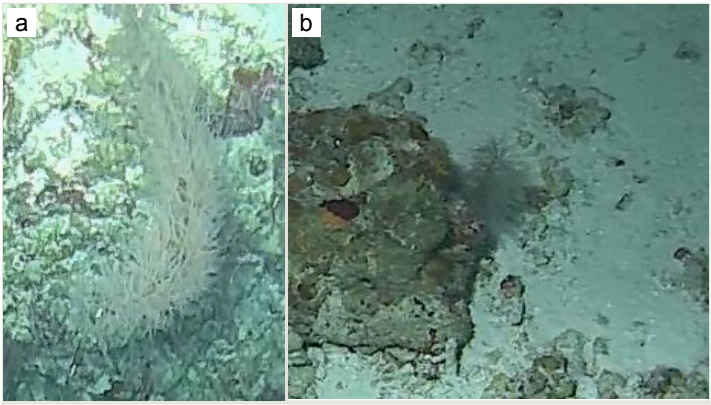

Figure 124.

Cupressopathes sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 120 m; doi
b: North Male', 60 m. doi

Myriopathes sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Myriopathes* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Myriopathidae; genus: *Myriopathes*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 60; maximumDepthInMeters: 250; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Tall, sparsely branched, tree-like colonies. Fine branches with a thicker main stem, typically growing up to a metre in height (Fig. 125). Colony height ~ 51 cm. Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Figure 125. doi

Myriopathes sp. indet. 1, Vaavu, 60 m.

Pteridopathes sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Pteridopathes* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Aphanipathidae; genus: *Pteridopathes*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 120; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Tall branched stem-like colonies with fine branching that have simple filiform pinnules giving a feathery appearance. Colony height ~ 81 cm. The collected specimen belonged to *Pteridopathes* sp. indet. and resembled *Plumapathes panacea* sp. inc. *in situ* (Fig. 126).

Stylopathes sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Stylopathes* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Stylopathidae; genus: *Stylopathes*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 115; maximumDepthInMeters: 253; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy:

Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

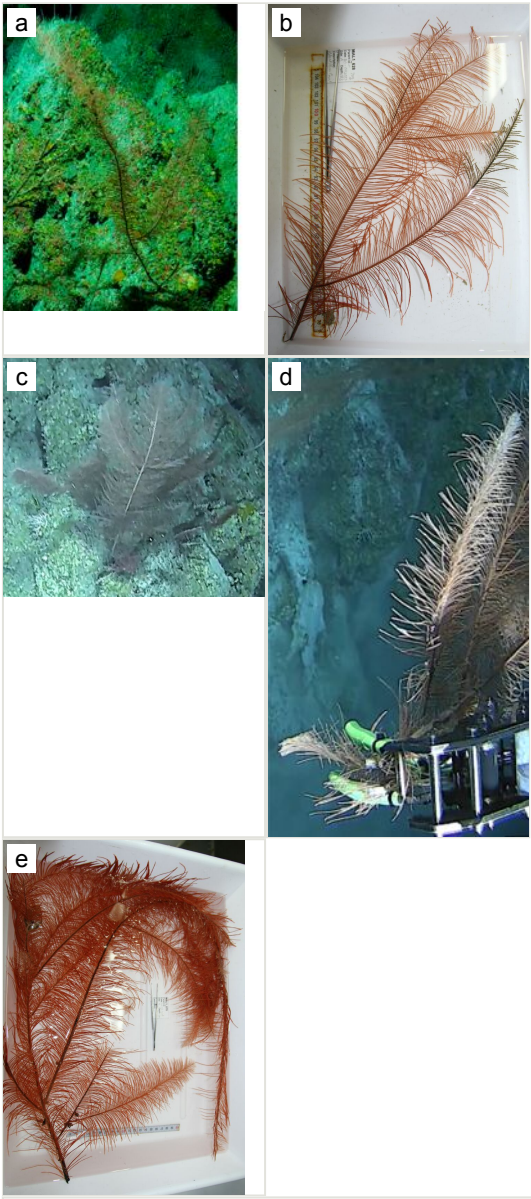

Figure 126.

Pteridopathes sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 123 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 123 m, collected specimen MAL1_628 (*Pteridopathes* sp. indet.); doi
c: Vaavu, 120 m; doi
d: Huvadhu, 120 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_075; doi
e: Huvadhu, 120 m, collected specimen MAL1_075. doi

Notes

Columnar tall colonies with sparse branching. Bottle-brush appearance. Colony height ~ 22 cm. The main stalk is darker in colour than the white pinnules (Fig. 127). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

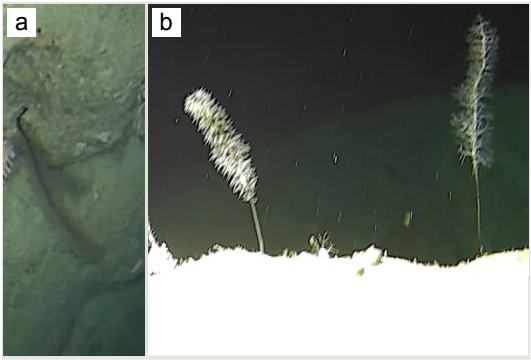

Figure 127.

Stylopathes sp. indet.

a: Huvadhu, 490 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 120 m. doi

Parantipathes sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Parantipathes* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Schizopathidae; genus: *Parantipathes*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 121; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies have a single stalk with numerous pinnules, giving it a bottle-brush appearance. Stalk paler than pinnules, which are brown to red in colour. Colony height ~ 22 cm. Some colonies were observed inhabiting sedimented habitats (Fig. 128).

Umbellapathes sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Umbellapathes* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; family: Schizopathidae; genus: *Umbellapathes*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Fuvahmulah;

minimumDepthInMeters: 488; maximumDepthInMeters: 495; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

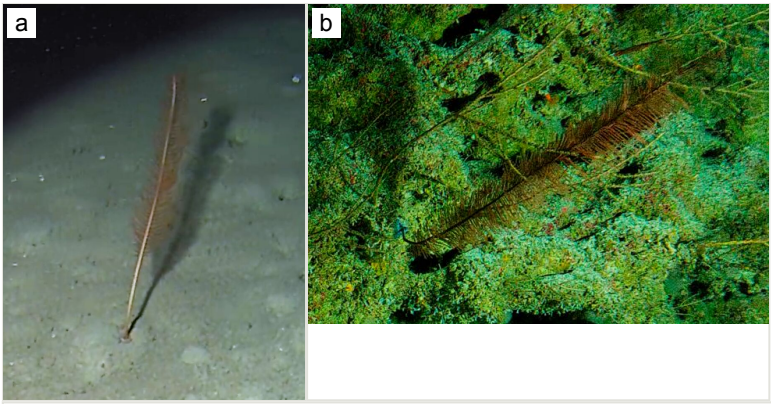

Figure 128.

Parantipathes sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 490 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 120 m. doi

Notes

Upright-branching colonies with thicker main stems that branch out to dense interconnected stems with an almost circular outline strongly resembling an umbrella shape. Colony height ~ 18 cm (Fig. 129).

Antipatharia fam. indet. sp. 7

Material

a. scientificName: Antipatharia sp. 7; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Antipatharia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 119; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: BB0ED6B0-0B6D-57D5-A724-76DC628F6A2E

Notes

Colonies consist of a tall, single, unbranched, wire-like stalk that is often coiled. Colony height ~ 41 cm. Individuals belong to *Cirrhipathes*, *Aphanostichopathes* and *Stichopathes*, as evidenced by collected specimens (Fig. 130).

Rhodactis sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Rhodactis* sp. indet.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Hexacorallia; order: Corallimorpharia; family: Discosomidae; genus: *Rhodactis*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Erika Gress; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

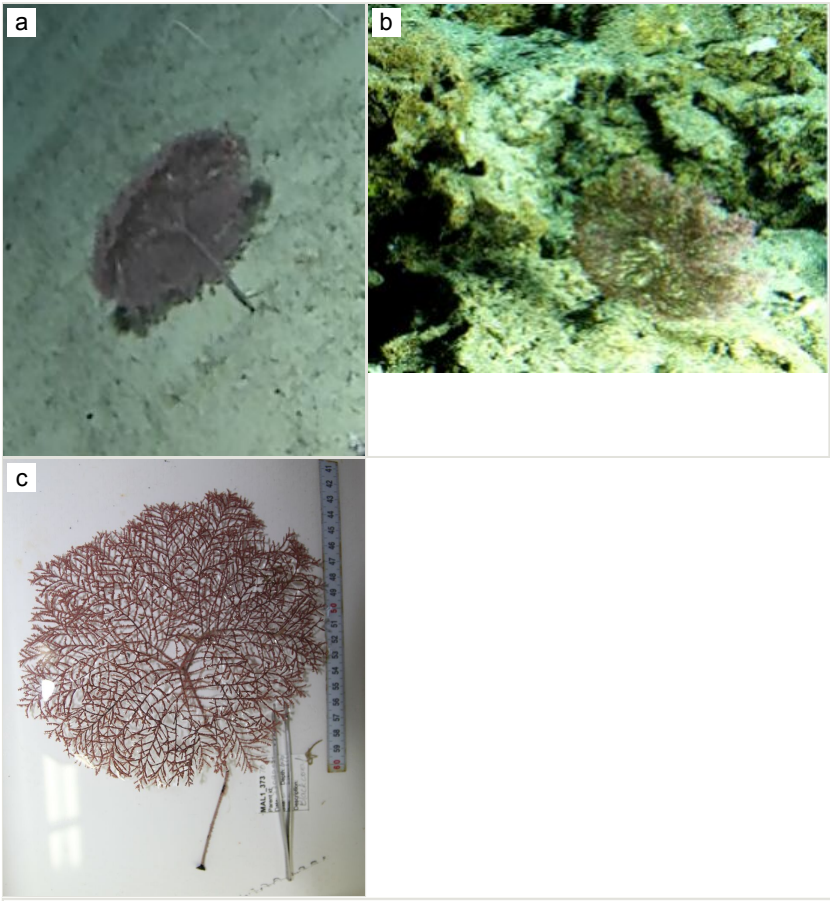

Figure 129.

Umbellapathes sp. indet.

a: Fuvahmulah, 490 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 490 m, *in situ* of collected specimen MAL1_373; doi
c: Fuvahmulah, 490 m, collected specimen MAL1_373. doi

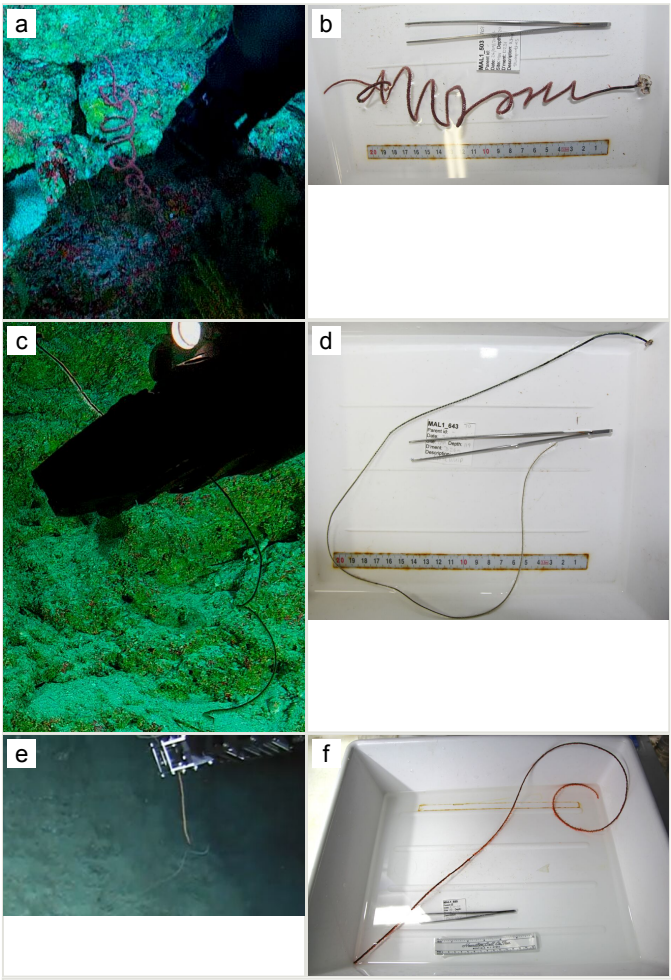

Figure 130.

Antipatharia fam. indet. sp. 7

a: Huvadhu, 120 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_503 (*Stichopathes* sp. indet.); doi

b: Huvadhu, 120 m collected specimen MAL1_503 (*Stichopathes* sp. indet.); doi

c: Vaavu, 119 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_643 (*Stichopathes* sp. indet.); doi

d: Vaavu, 119 m, collected specimen MAL1_643 (*Stichopathes* sp. indet.); doi

e: North Male', 120 m, *in situ* of MAL1_689 (*Cirrhipathes* sp. indet.); doi

f: North Male', 120 m, MAL1_689 (*Cirrhipathes* sp. indet.). doi

Notes

Aggregated polyps of light yellow to green usually found in large groups. Colony size ~ 70 cm. Polyps have short, thin tentacles with rounded tips. This group contains a

variety of species of which *R. howesii* is commonly found in the Maldives. Resembles sea anemones (Fig. 131).

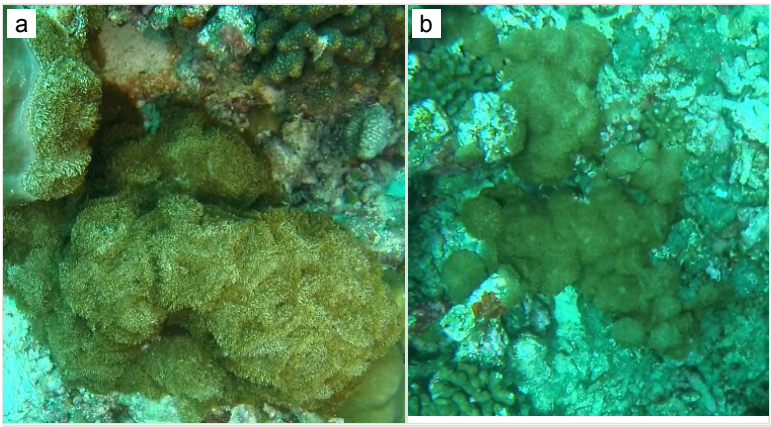

Figure 131.

Rhodactis sp. indet.

a: North Male', 10 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 10 m. doi

Astrogorgia sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Astrogorgia* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Astrogorgiidae; genus: *Astrogorgia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: F79BE385-60DD-57CF-8E64-2A1B735DBBF0

Notes

Colonies growing as uniplanar, irregularly branched fans. Branches are thin with large polyps, giving the colony a spiky appearance. Colony height ~ 36 cm (Fig. 132). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Melithaea sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Melithaea* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Melithaeidae; genus: *Melithaea*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Addu;

minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 61; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 060F5248-564A-55CD-B34E-568391657C50

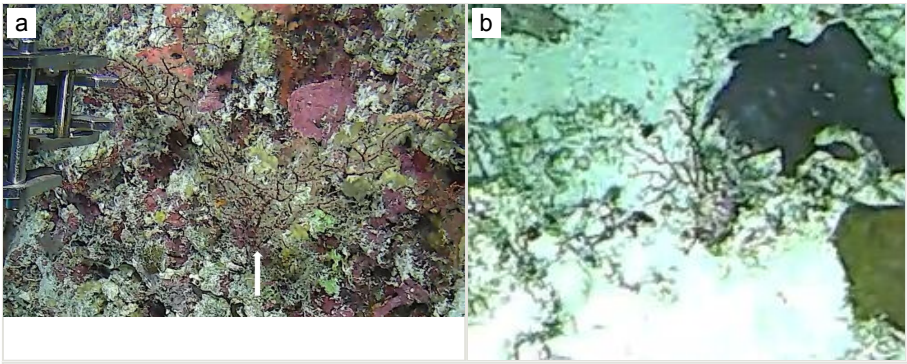

Figure 132.

Astrogorgia sp. indet.

a: Addu, 60 m; doi
b: Addu, 60 m. doi

Notes

Bushy colonies with heavily dense, fine branching give a fluffy appearance. Colony height ~ 116 cm (Fig. 133).

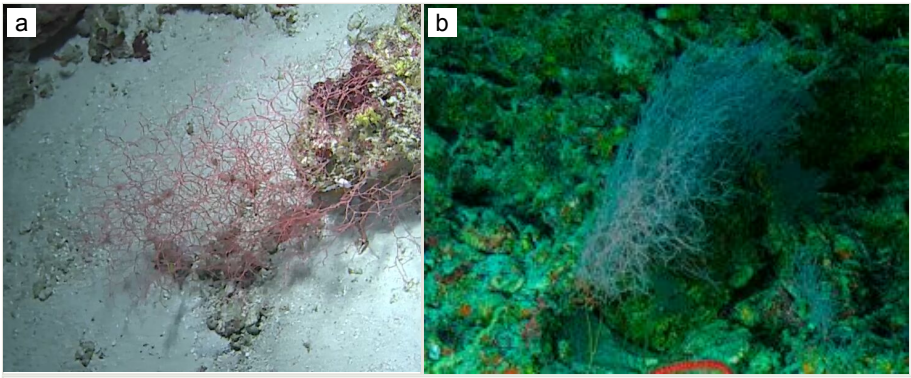

Figure 133.

Melithaea sp. indet. 1

a: North Male', 58 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 60 m. doi

Melithaea sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Melithaea* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Melithaeidae; genus: *Melithaea*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 8; maximumDepthInMeters: 61; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 9A0BD323-7824-53BB-BDAB-0D81AEDD908D

Notes

Bushy fan-like colonies with dense branching, sometimes with uniplanar growth. Colony height ~ 31 cm. Purple-red branches with lighter yellow polyps and shades of white (Fig. 134).

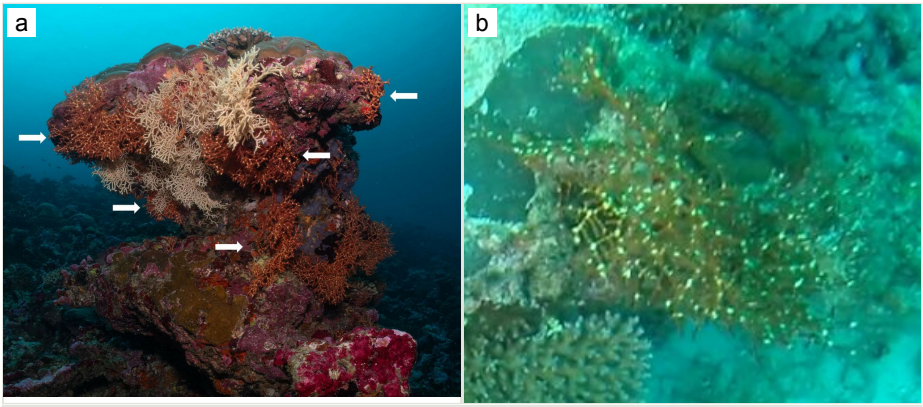

Figure 134.

Melithaea sp. indet. 2

a: Laamu, 10-30 m; doi

b: Huvadhu, 30 m. doi

Dendronephthya sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Dendronephthya* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Nephtheidae; genus: *Dendronephthya*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023;

identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: D99A7691-6267-57AA-958E-AD984999210C

Notes

Bushy colonies with close, short branching and distinct, large, round polyp bunches at the end of each branch. Colony height ~ 14 cm. White stalk with red, orange, purple, yellow, pink or white polyps (Fig. 135). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Figure 135. doi

Dendronephthya sp. indet. 1, Huvadhu, 30 m.

Dendronephthya sp. indet. 4

Material

a. scientificName: *Dendronephthya* sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Nephtheidae; genus: *Dendronephthya*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 60; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 6294C380-6FC3-5593-9618-006D404A329C

Notes

Bushy colonies with close, short branching and polyp bunches at the end of each branch are more sparsely spaced than D. sp 1. Colony height ~ 29 cm (Fig. 136).

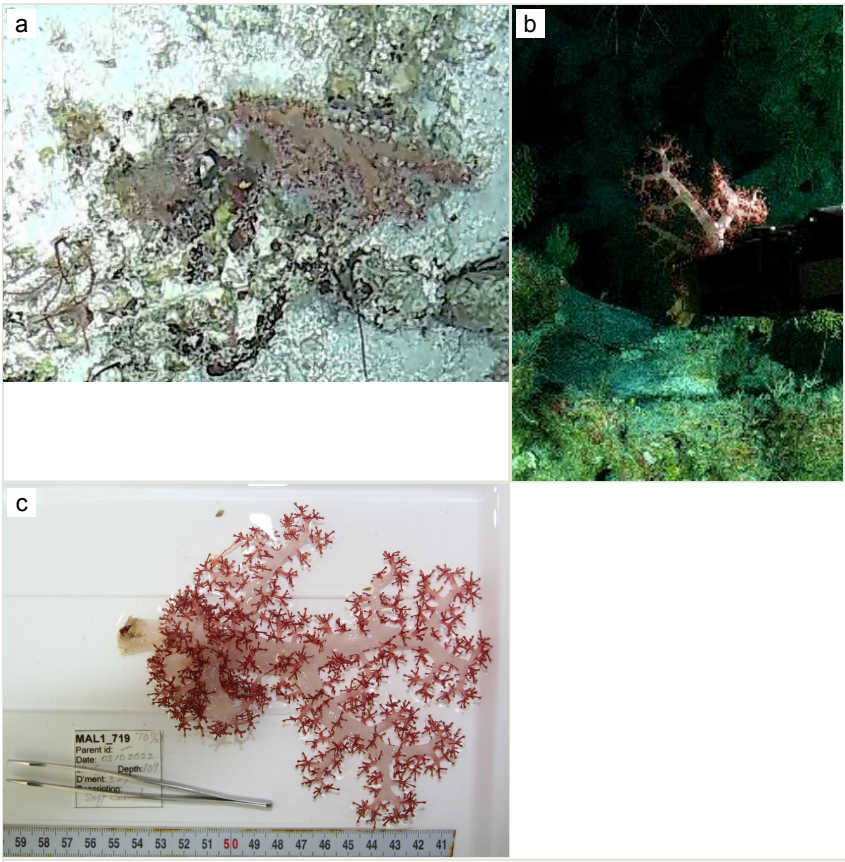

Figure 136.

Dendronephthya sp. indet. 4

a: Laamu, 120 m; doi
b: North Male', 109 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_719; doi
c: North Male', 109 m, collected specimen MAL1_719. doi

Nephtheidae gen. indet. sp. 5

Material

a. scientificName: Nephtheidae sp. 5; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Nephtheidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 0A87234F-AE8F-538A-84A0-1C0A628BC6CE

Notes

Bushy or tree-like colonies with thick primary erect trunk from which bushes of polyps grow. Colony height ~ 20 cm. White with pale pink polyps (Fig. 137).

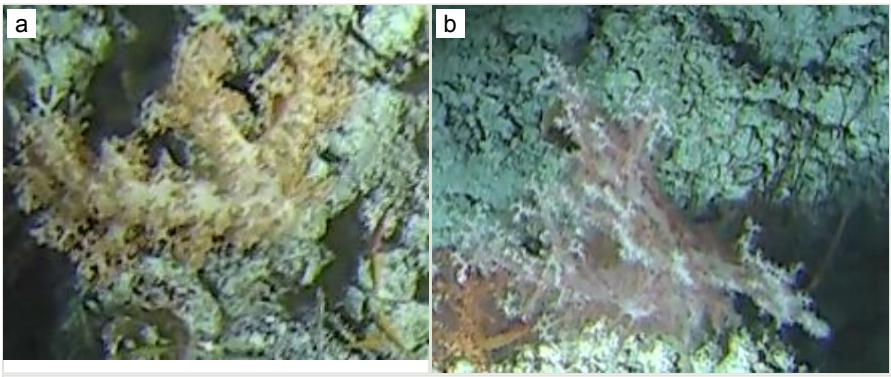

Figure 137.

Nephtheidae gen. indet. sp. 5

a: Huvadhu, 120 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 120 m. doi

Scleronephthya sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Scleronephthya* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Nephtheidae; genus: *Scleronephthya*; scientificNameAuthorship: Studer, 1887; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 60; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 4A721492-64E6-5FB8-9487-C70851B1CF4B

Notes

Colonies sparsely branched and tree-like, often planar with height of up to 25 cm. Colouration translucent white with pale pink or purple polyps. Can be confused with *Dendronephthya* (Fig. 138).

Umbellulifera sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Umbellulifera* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Nephtheidae; genus: *Umbellulifera*;

waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 53; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 26BB05B8-5C69-5EAB-9A5E-5EEABAC65B1E

Figure 138. doi

Scleronephythya sp. indet. 2, Huvadhu, 60 m.

Notes

Tree-link colonies with very thick trunk. Branches end with bunches of polyps. Colony height ~ 50 cm. White in colour (Fig. 139).

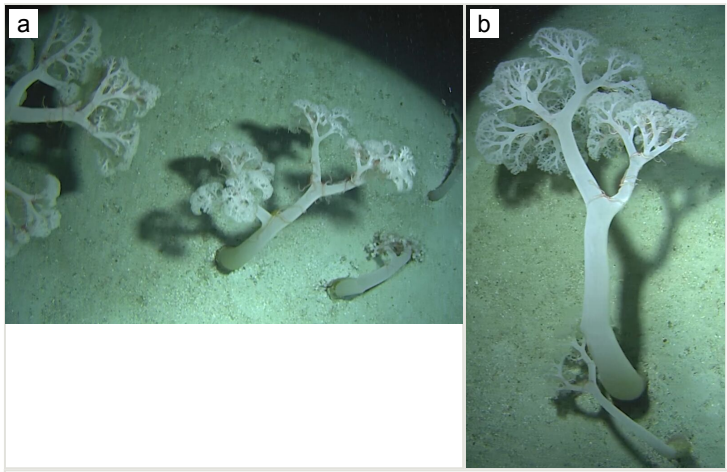

Figure 139.

Umbellulifera sp. indet.

a: North Male', 60-120 m; doi
b: North Male', 60-120 m. doi

Paramuriceidae gen. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Paramuriceidae sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Paramuriceidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 118; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: D82C4A71-A840-5137-9266-1247EDAE06B6

Notes

Branching colonies with obvious polyps on the thinner branches. Colony height ~ 15 cm. Colouration in shades of yellow. Visually very similar to *Acanthogorgia*; however, *Acanthogorgia* is more densely branched and the polyps are larger compared to the axis. It is also similar to Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 22, but in that morphospecies, branches seem larger and equal in size, branching out from the bottom (Fig. 140).

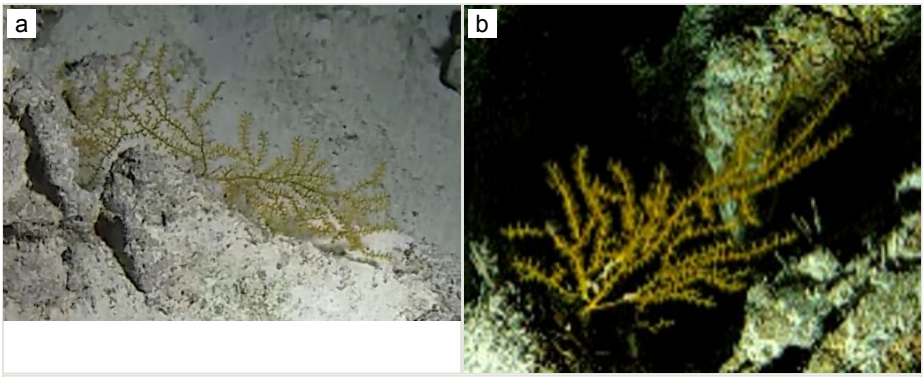

Figure 140.

Paramuriceidae gen. indet. sp. 1

a: Fuvahmulah, 490 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 490 m. doi

Acanthogorgia sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Acanthogorgia* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Paramuriceidae; genus: *Acanthogorgia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 250; maximumDepthInMeters: 250; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 1DFDEFBB-A449-55D3-9AB8-0861F7931F97

Notes

Branched colonies with a thicker main stem that branches into thinner ‘stems’. Colony height ~ 13 cm. Orange to pale yellow in colour (Fig. 141).

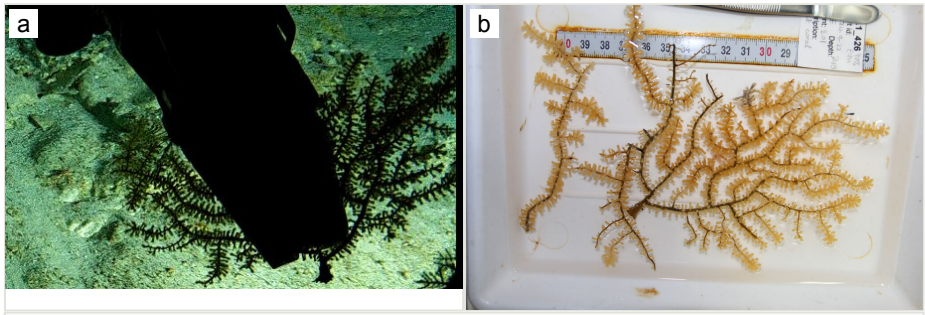

Figure 141.

Acanthogorgia sp. indet.

a: Fuvahmulah, 250 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_426; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 250 m, collected specimen MAL1_426. doi

Plexauridae gen. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Plexauridae sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Plexauridae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: B8F8B8C2-29F7-5A33-B33E-C91A3905E42A

Notes

Fan-shaped colony with dense, tree-like branching where the stem is thicker compared to thinner branches. Colony height ~ 26 cm. Colour shades of green and yellow (Fig. 142). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

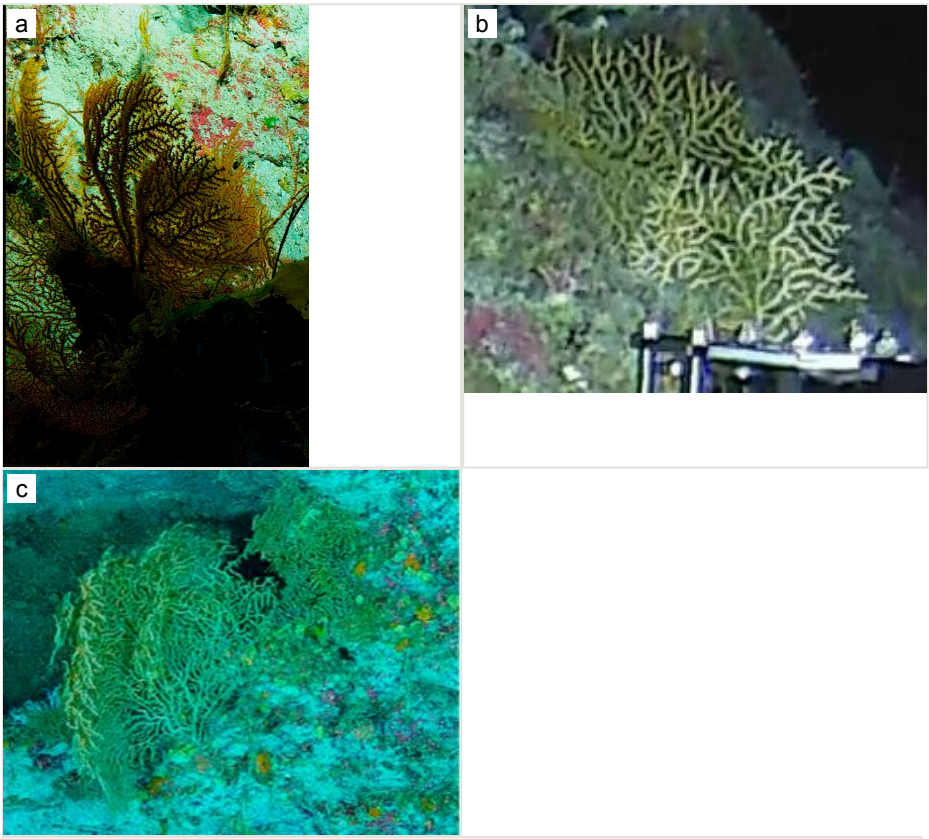

Figure 142.

Plexauridae gen. indet. sp. 2

a: Fuvahmulah, 120 m; doi
b: Addu, 250 m; doi
c: Fiuvahmulah, 120 m. doi

Plexauridae gen. indet. sp. 9

Material

a. scientificName: Plexauridae sp. 9; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Plexauridae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 60; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 25F2F451-1578-5786-8F3F-BA79DAD3EA08

Notes

Colonies are small, with sparse, dichotomous branching and a twig-like appearance. No visible polyp calices. Colony height ~ 116 cm. Dark red to dark brown (Fig. 143). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Figure 143. doi

Plexauridae gen. indet. sp. 9, Addu, 60 m.

Lobophytum sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Lobophytum* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Sarcophytidae; genus: *Lobophytum*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: B5340C84-399C-51F8-A409-997D89A10DC3

Notes

Colonies are thickly encrusted with lobed projections, giving a plate-like appearance with lumps. Colony size ~ 18 cm. Cream to brownish-orange in colour (Fig. 144). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

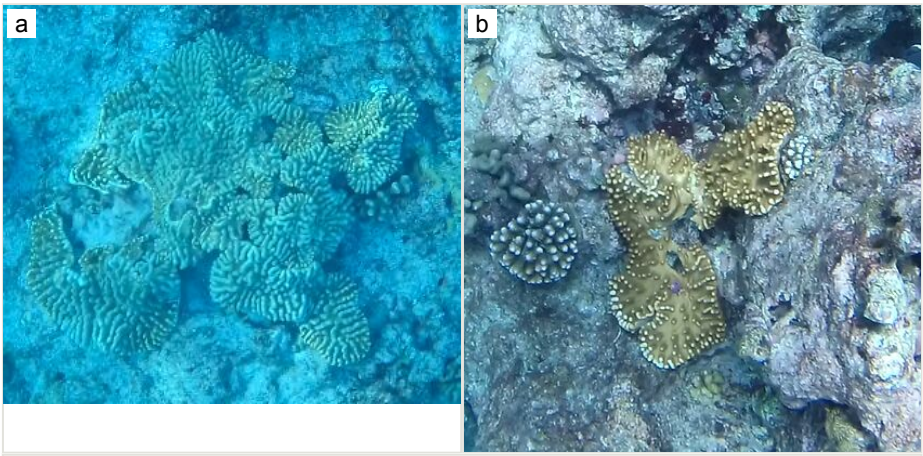

Figure 144.

Lobophytum sp. indet.

a: Fuvahmulah, 2 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 2 m. doi

Sarcophyton sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Sarcophyton* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Sarcophytidae; genus: *Sarcophyton*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 89789312-D42C-5BF3-88B8-AF7B3D1E1BBA

Notes

Colonies are lobate with conspicuous bare stalks merging into a wide, fleshy, disc-like head (polypary). The polypary is concave at the centre and wavy around the edges, giving it a mushroom appearance (Fig. 145). Colony size ~ 18 cm. Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

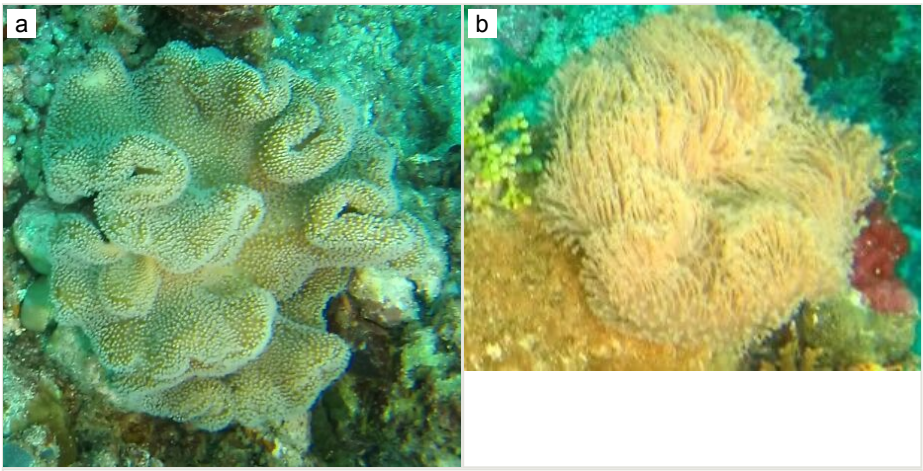

Figure 145.

Sarcophyton sp. indet.

a: North Male', 10 m; doi
b: Laamu, 30 m. doi

Sinulariidae gen. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Sinulariidae* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Sinulariidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: E294CBE2-CCA3-503D-859B-9B45122C2D2F

Notes

Colonies form low tabular mounds that can have ridged or digitated surfaces. Fewer and larger knobs that are paler than the rest of the colony. Colony size ~ 18 cm (Fig. 146).

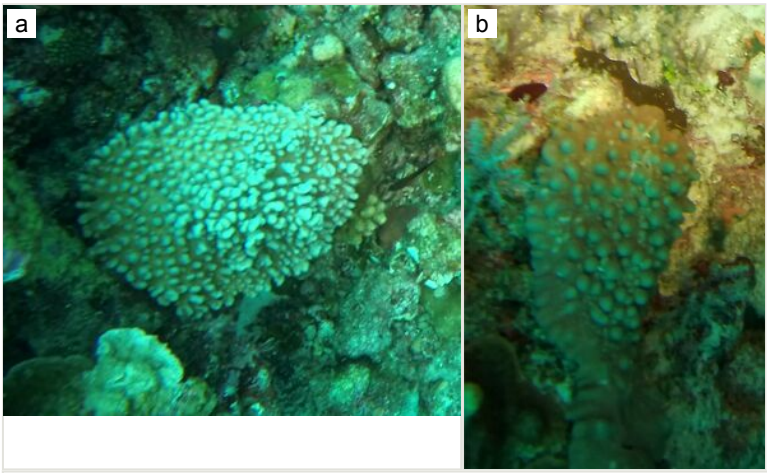

Figure 146.

Sinulariidae gen. indet. sp. 1

a: North Male', 10 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 30 m. doi

Sinulariidae gen. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Sinulariidae* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Sinulariidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 7D93116C-3280-599C-B73F-BFCA6EF0C558

Notes

Colonies form encrusting low tabular mounds that can have ridged or digitate surfaces. Smaller and more lumps give a knobbed appearance. Colony size ~ 26 cm (Fig. 147).

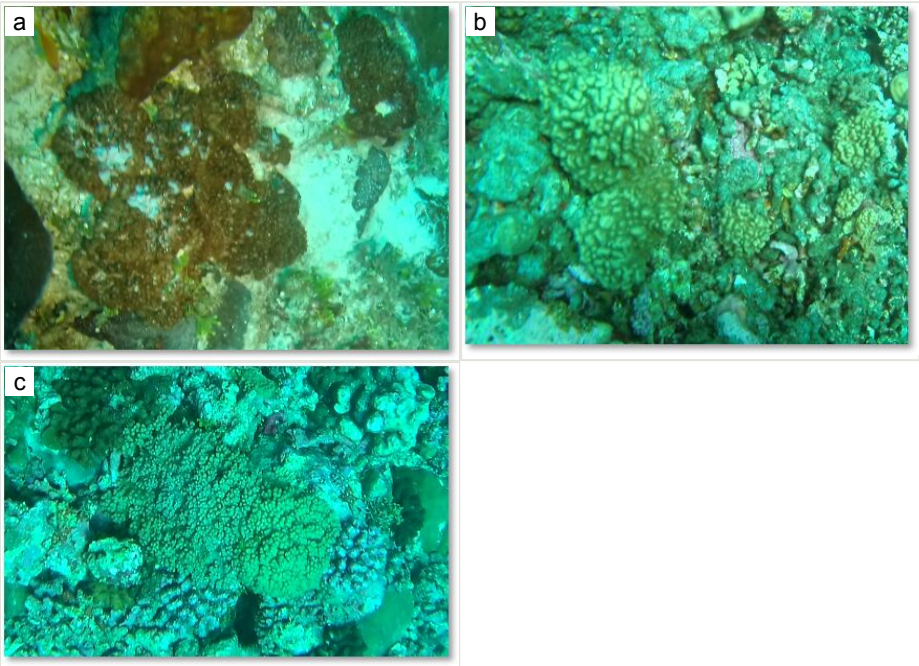

Figure 147.

Sinulariidae gen. indet. sp. 2

a: Huvadhu, 10 m; doi
c: Laamu, 10 m. doi

Sinulariidae gen. indet. sp. 3

Material

a. scientificName: *Sinulariidae* sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Sinulariidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: BF5094EB-22B6-5B35-89BA-757FCCD23501

Notes

Colonies in branching form creating finger-like projections. Colony height ~ 36 cm (Fig. 148).

Figure 148. doi

Sinulariidae gen. indet. sp. 3, Addu, 30 m.

Sinulariidae gen. indet. sp. 4

Material

a. scientificName: *Sinulariidae* sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Sinulariidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 6C3F16EC-D175-5744-A3BA-5BFD50C627FA

Notes

Flattened clumps of branching colonies with thick finger-like projections. Colony height ~ 18 cm. Light brown to cream in colour (Fig. 149).

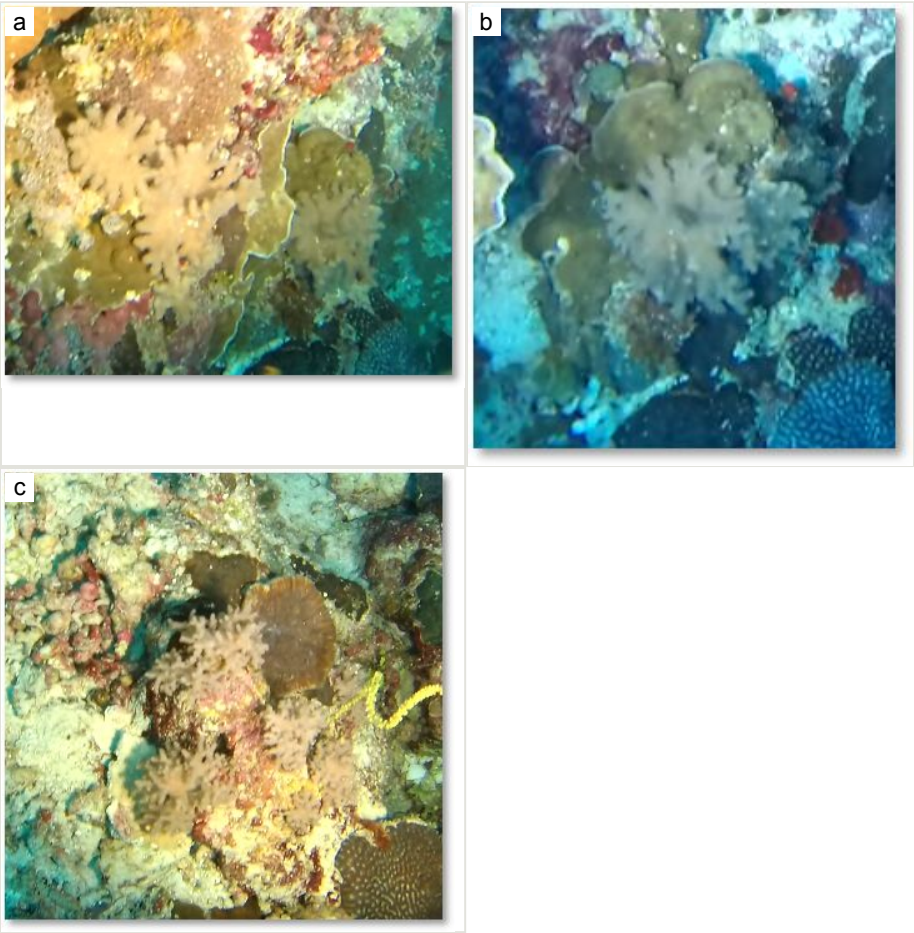

Figure 149.

Sinulariidae gen. indet. sp. 4

a: Vaavu, 30 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 30 m; doi
c: Vaavu, 30 m. doi

Chironephthya sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Chironephthya* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Siphonogorgiidae; genus: *Chironephthya*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 57; maximumDepthInMeters: 61; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023;

identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: E8B2CD37-3FEA-5722-81E8-F67CC9E48D48

Notes

Branching fan-shaped colonies that begin branching from the base. Colony height ~ 10 cm. White, yellow and orange shades with darker polyps (Fig. 150).

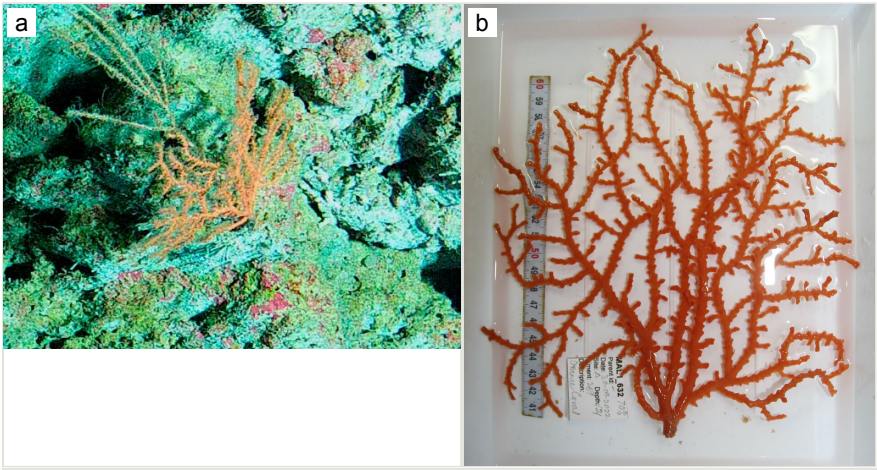

Figure 150.

Chironephthya sp. indet. 2

a: Vaavu, 121 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_632; doi
b: Vaavu, 121 m, collected specimen MAL1_632. doi

Subergorgiidae gen. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Subergorgiidae sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Subergorgiidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 26; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 4BC3D7CE-849E-5D5C-9586-58FA4A4526F7

Notes

Colonies fan-shaped with a tree-like growth form, mostly uniplanar, with a thick main stem and several thinner branches. Colony height ~ 42 cm (Fig. 151).

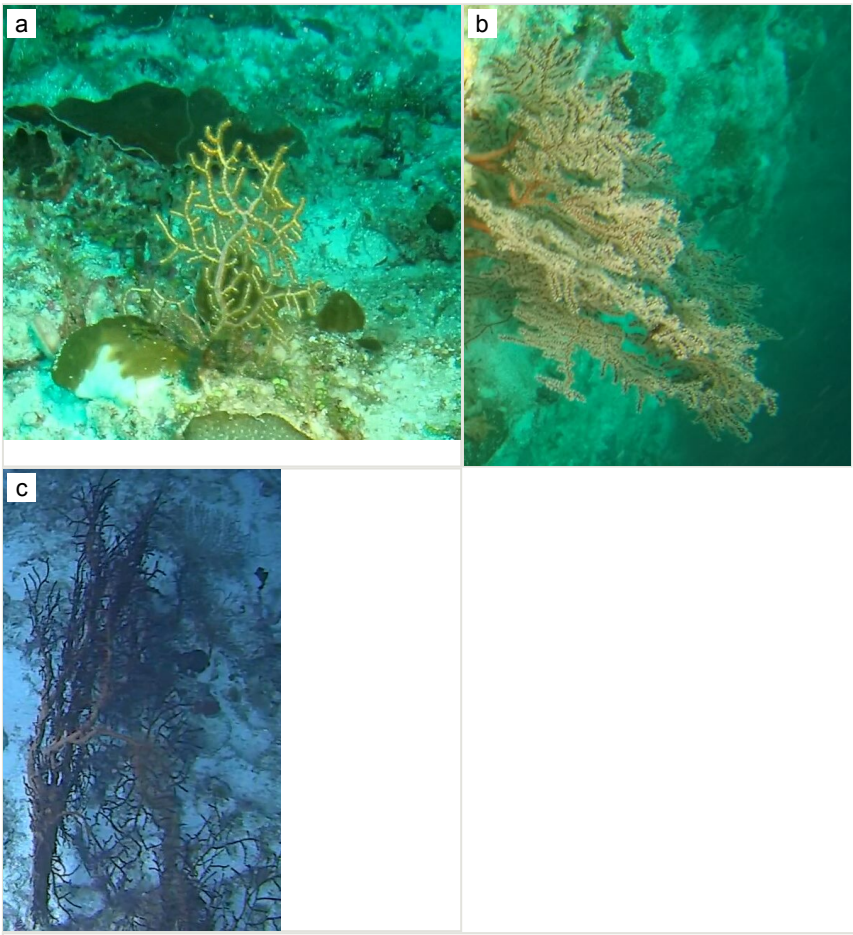

Figure 151.

Subergorgiidae sp. indet. 1

a: Laamu, 30 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 30 m; doi
c: Huvadhu, 60 m. doi

Annella sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Annella* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Subergorgiidae; genus: *Annella*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 53; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery;

basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: A251E1E2-CE17-5021-9E5F-421CF6E95EB6

Notes

Colonies are fan-shaped and uniplanar. Branches display a high degree of anastomoses, forming net-like fans. Stalks are always attached to hard substrates. Colony height ~ 108 cm. Colour ranges from yellow to orange and red (Fig. 152). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

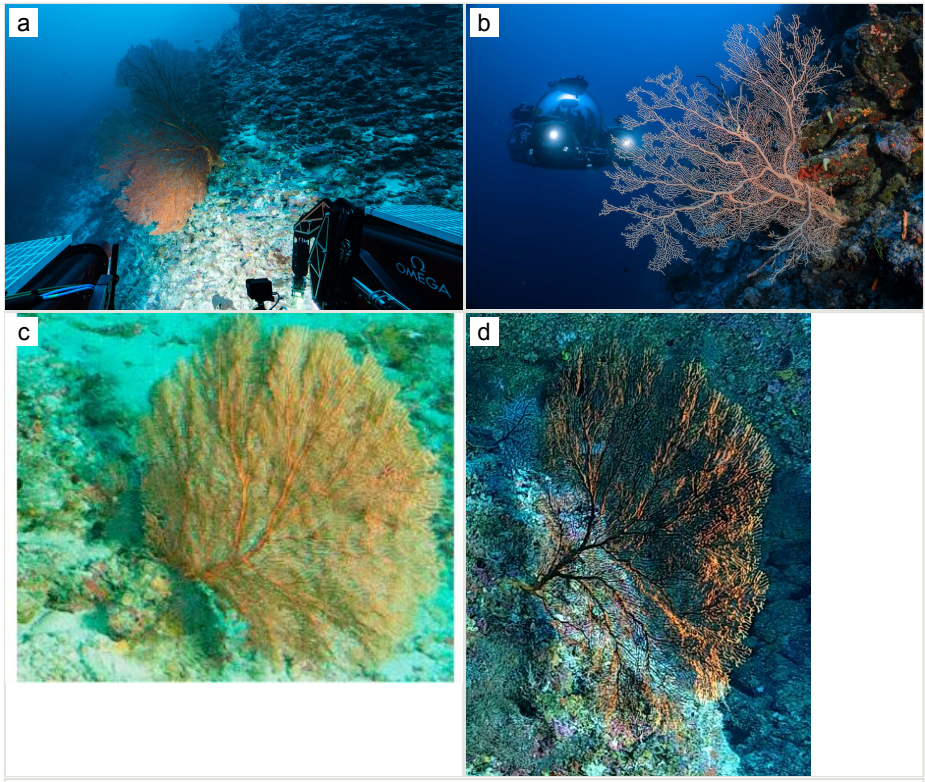

Figure 152.

Annella sp. indet.

a: Huvadhu, ~ 60-90 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, ~ 30 m; doi
c: Vaavu, 60 m; doi
d: Fuvahmulah, ~ 90-120 m. doi

Subergorgia sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Subergorgia* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; family: Subergorgiidae; genus: *Subergorgia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 118; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: A84DAD3B-C65F-53FA-806E-4C7AD5203852

Notes

Branching colonies, tree-like thin branches with obvious polyps. Colony height ~ 17 cm. Yellow to light orange in colour. A different morphotype of *Subergorgia* (sp. 1) was seen in Comoros (Fig. 153).

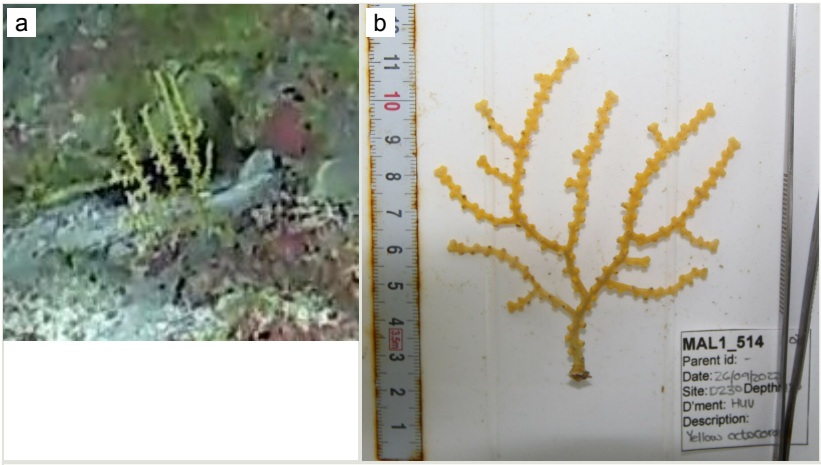

Figure 153.

Subergorgia sp. indet. 2

a: Huvadhu, 120 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_514; doi
b: Huvadhu, 120 m, collected specimen MAL1_514; doi

Malacalcyonacea fam. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Malacalcyonacea sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Malacalcyonacea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks:

Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 2582E107-2A4A-5BF9-B495-2EBC4C5DC46D

Notes

Colonies have irregular and uniplanar branches. Colony height ~ 15 cm. Polyps are conspicuous and give the colony a fuzzy appearance. Likely a member of *Solenocaulon* (Melithaeidae) or *Chironephthya* (Dendrophyllidae). Colour ranges from pale brown to yellow (Fig. 154).

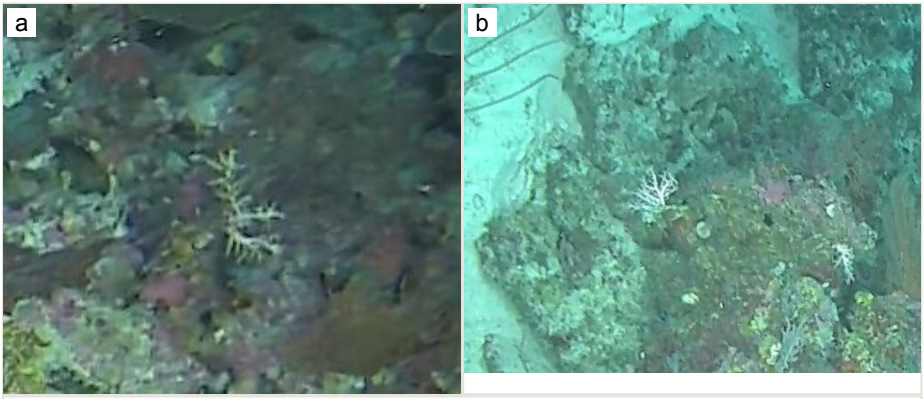

Figure 154.

Malacalcyonacea fam. indet. sp.

a: Huvadhu, 60 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 60 m. doi

Ellisella sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Ellisella* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Ellisellidae; genus: *Ellisella*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: FE179DBC-7177-569F-9589-060816A41A01

Notes

Colonies are typically tall, with whip-like branches. Branching can range from sparse to densely packed. Colony height ~ 85 cm. Cream to dark purplish-black colour (Fig. 155). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Figure 155.

Ellisella sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 10-30 m; doi
b: Laamu, 30 m; doi
c: Laamu, 30 m. doi

Nicella sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Nicella* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Ellisellidae; genus: *Nicella*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 57; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 803536AC-D39A-5F66-89DC-8CD59B64BBAA

Notes

Colonies are fan-shaped, with dense, fine branches typically growing in one plane. Branching starts from the bottom and the stalk is rarely visible. Colony height ~ 47 cm.

Colour white to yellow with dark-brown to black-coloured polyps (Fig. 156). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

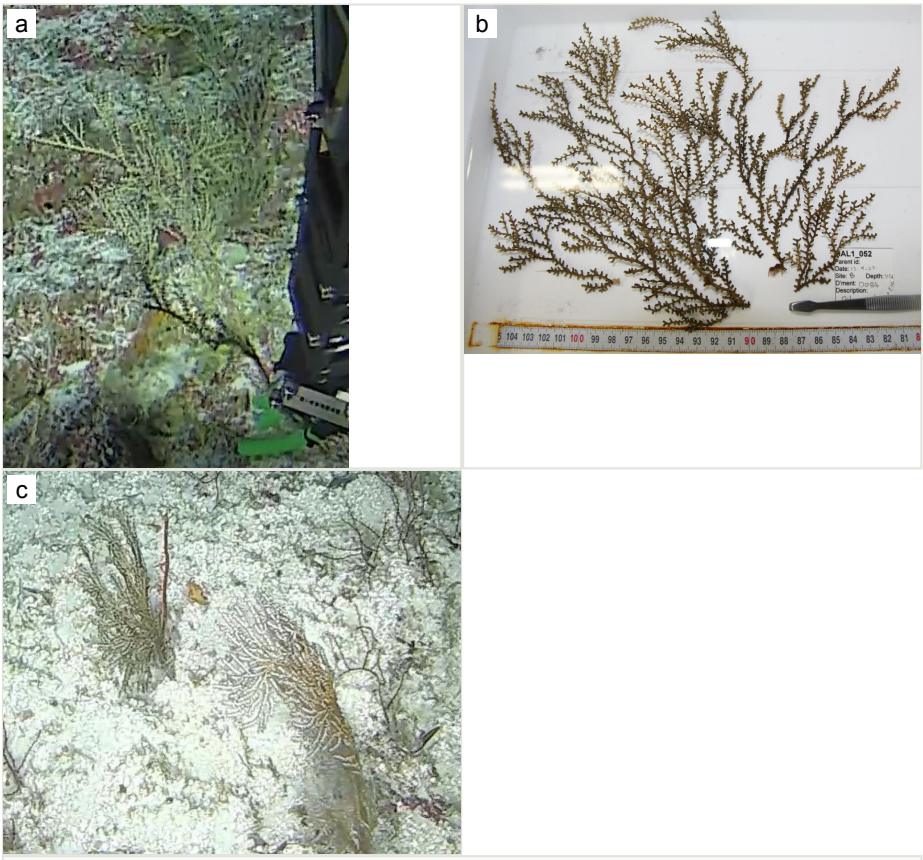

Figure 156.

Nicella sp. indet.

a: Laamu, 114 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_052; doi
b: Laamu, 114 m, collected specimen MAL1_052; doi
c: Laamu, 60 m. doi

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 2

Nomenclature

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Ellisellidae sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Ellisellidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu;

minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 46508A3B-6A5E-5F14-A654-4230F3F6E66F

Notes

Colonies are typically tall, with a single whip-like branch that does not coil. Colony height ~ 99 cm. Pink, orange and red shades. Similar to black wire corals (*Stichopathes* and *Cirrhipathes*) (Fig. 157). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

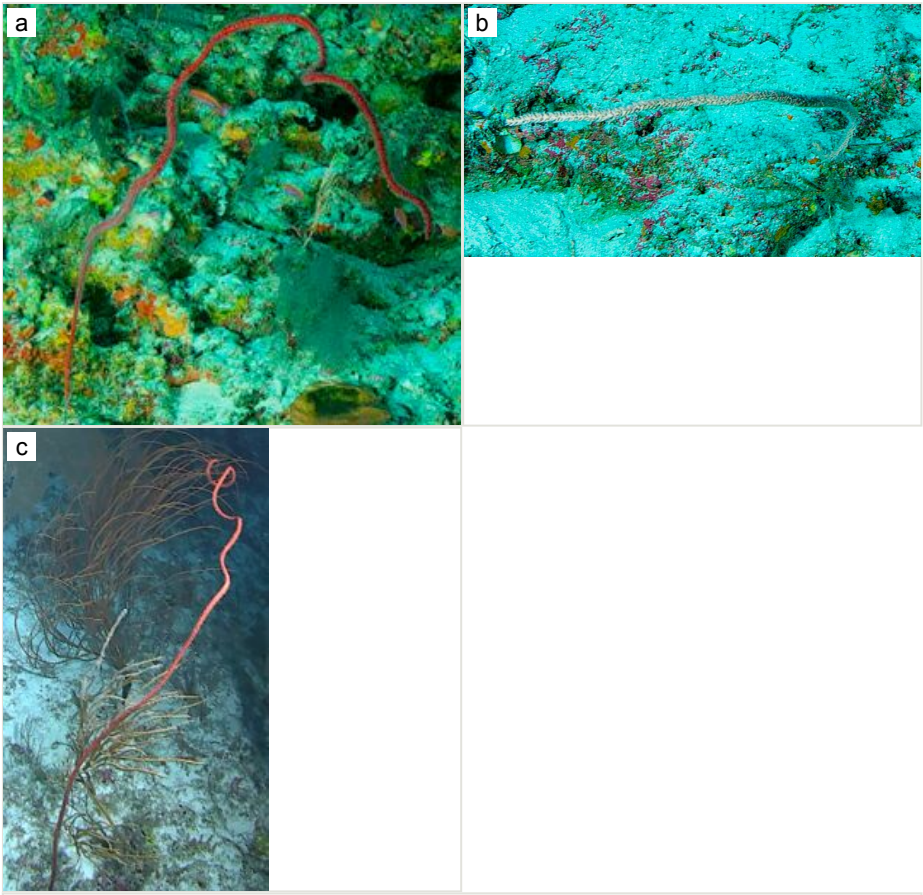

Figure 157.

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 2

a: Vaavu, 30 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 120 m; doi
c: Huvadhu, 60 m. doi

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 4

Material

a. scientificName: Ellisellidae sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Ellisellidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu, Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: C2A1407A-86D9-5581-8624-2255E17A2031

Notes

Bushy colonies with dense branches, making it appear shaggy. Colony height ~ 30 cm. Yellow to pale brown colour (Fig. 158).

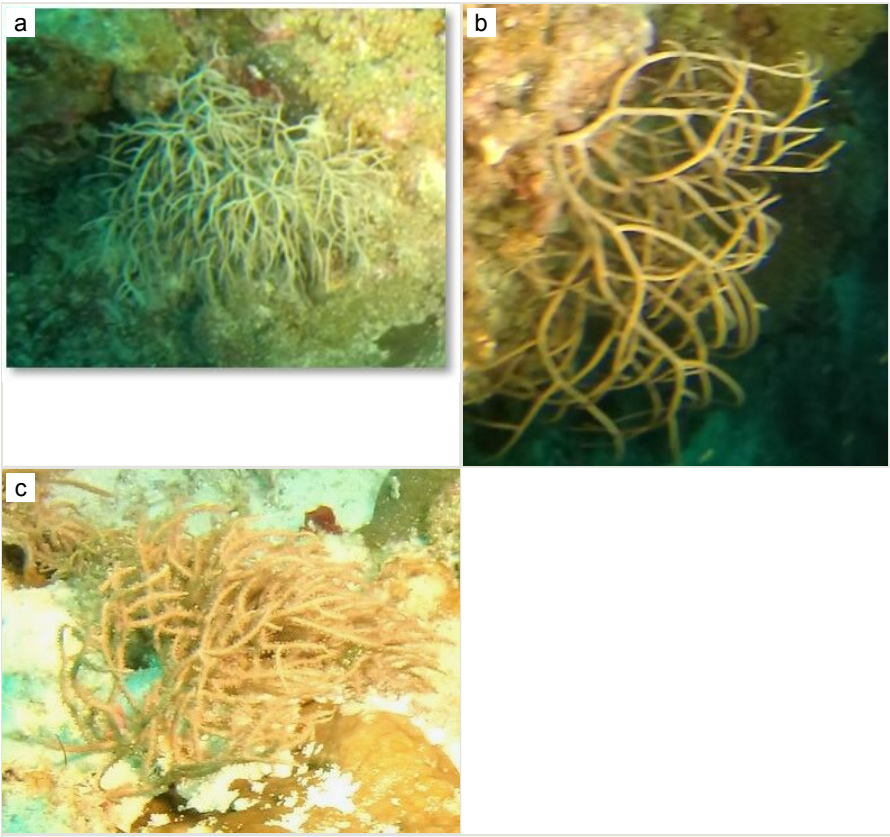

Figure 158.

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 4

a: Addu, 30 m; doi
b: Addu, 30 m; doi
c: Huvadhu, 30 m. doi

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 5

Material

a. scientificName: Ellisellidae sp. 5; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Ellisellidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Huvadhu, Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 116; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: E8B070B9-0AC2-58E2-B29E-8E0DE0E3ED3B

Notes

Single whip-like branch with pronounced polyps that give the appearance of lumps. Colony height ~ 59 cm. Yellow in colour (Fig. 159).

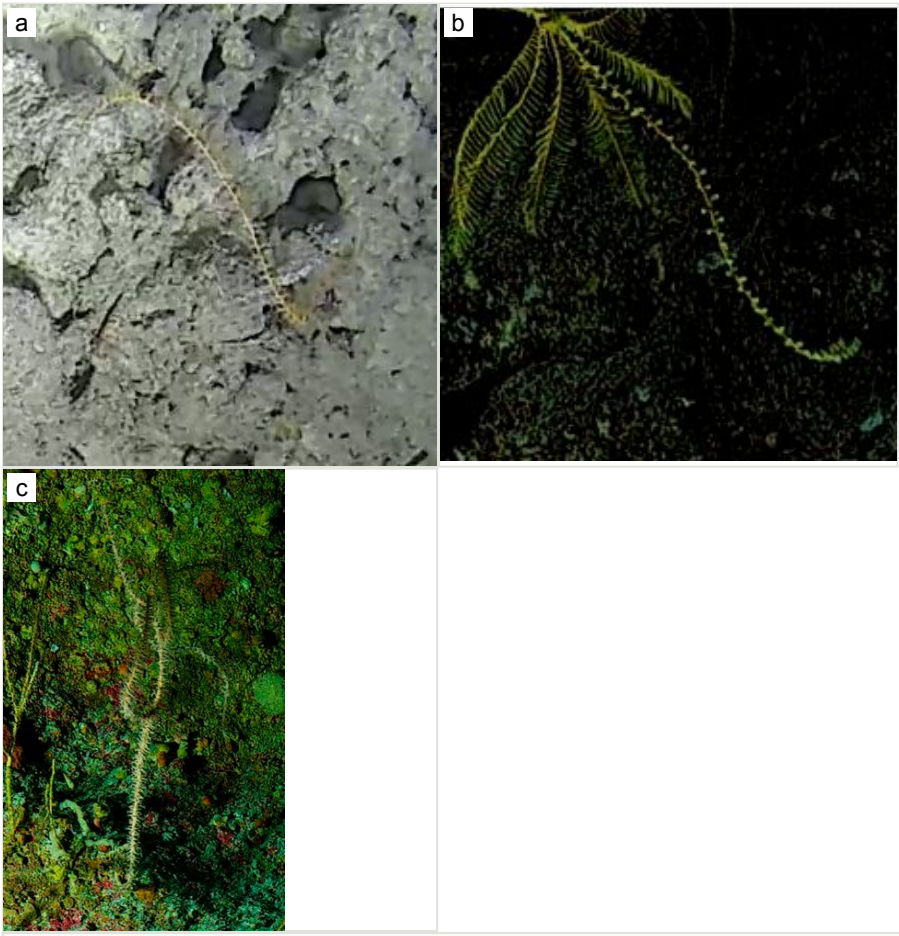

Figure 159.

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 5

a: Addu, 243 m, in situ photo of collected specimen MAL_533; doi
b: Addu, 255 m, collected specimen MAL_305; doi
c: Fuvahmulah, 120 m. doi

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 6

Material

a. scientificName: Ellisellidae sp. 6; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Ellisellidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean;

country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 52; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: A76BAF06-CE33-59E1-ABD3-84098DB797F8

Notes

Bushy sparely packed branches with a tree-like growth form. Colony height ~ 27 cm. Dark brown to orange in colour (Fig. 160).

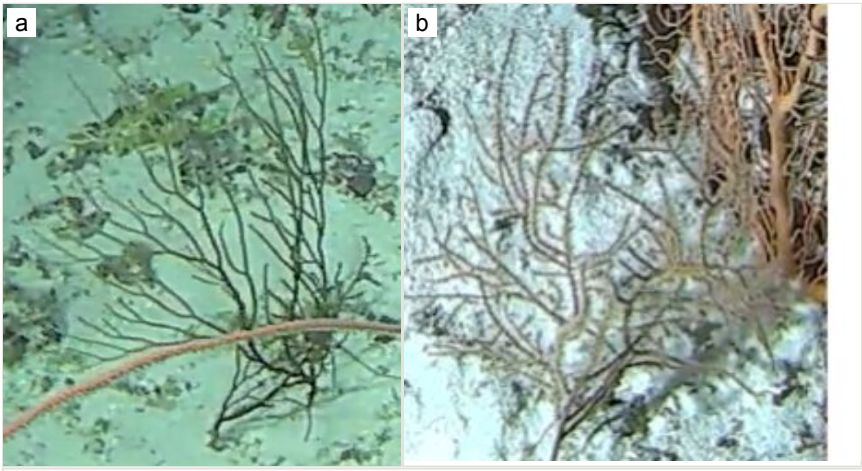

Figure 160.

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 6

a: Laamu, 60 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 120 m. doi

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 8

Material

a. scientificName: Ellisellidae sp. 8; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Ellisellidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 60; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 4713C20B-2856-58EC-BBA4-DB071D223E5C

Notes

Colonies with moderately dense and dichotomous branching, with a tree-like growth form. Colony height ~ 29 cm (Fig. 161).

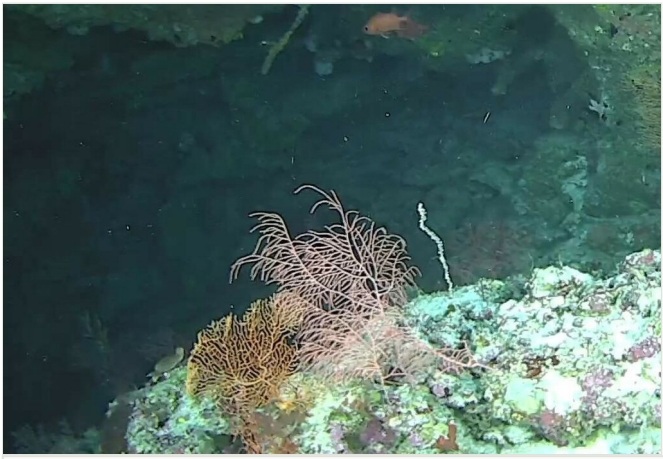

Figure 161. doi

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 8, Addu, 60 m.

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 9

Material

a. scientificName: Ellisellidae sp. 9; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Ellisellidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 250; maximumDepthInMeters: 253; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Large branched colonies with thin, fine branches. Possibly belonging to *Heliania*. Colony height ~ 27 cm. Beige to brownish-yellow (Fig. 162).

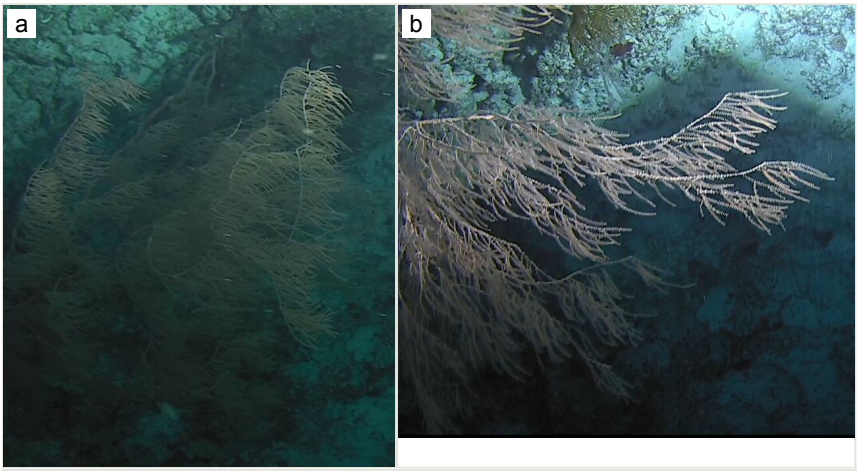

Figure 162.

Ellisellidae gen. indet. sp. 9

a: Huvadhu, 120 m; doi
b: HUvadhu, 120 m. doi

Heliopora sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Heliopora* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Helioporidae; genus: *Heliopora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies consist of thick column-like branching. Colony height ~ 23 cm. Blue to green colouration with tips of polyps white colour (Fig. 163). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Figure 163. doi

Heliopora sp. indet., Vaavu, 10 m.

Pennatuloidea gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Pennatuloidea sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Pennatuloidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2024; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Sea pens that have elongated primary polyps from which secondary polyps grow, creating a feather-shaped appearance. Colony height ~ 19 cm. Orange to deep red in colour (Fig. 164).

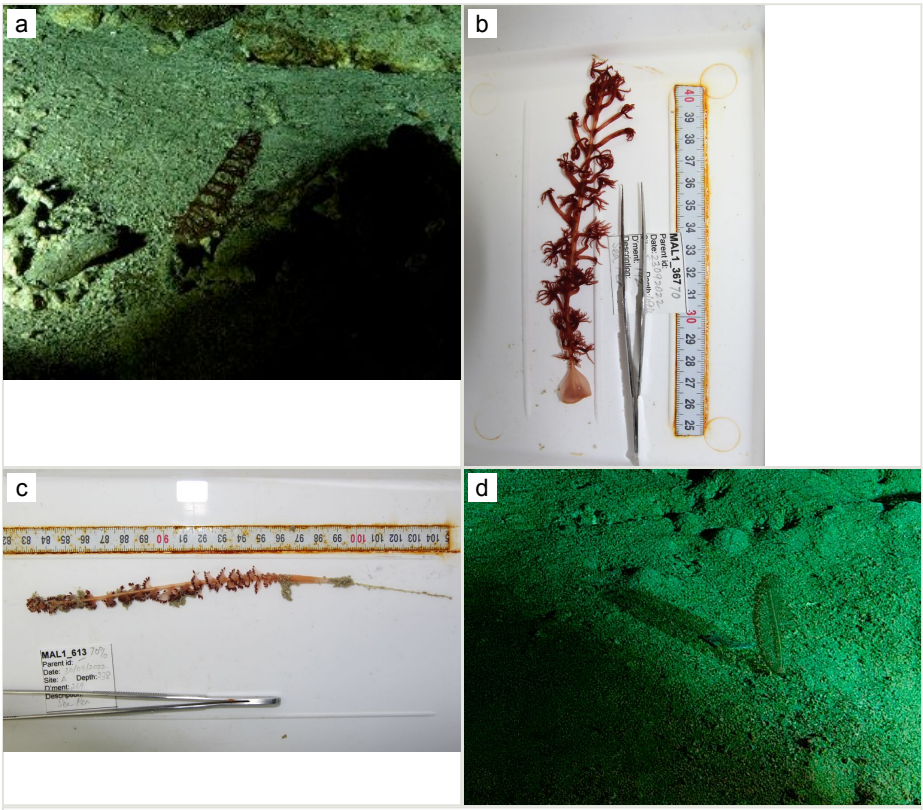

Figure 164.

Pennatuloidea gen. indet. sp.

a: Fuvahmulah, 490 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_367; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 490 m, collected specimen MAL1_367; doi
c: Vaavu, 238 m, collected specimen MAL1_613; doi
d: Vaavu, 238 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_613. doi

Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Primnoidae sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Primnoidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 53; maximumDepthInMeters: 491; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2025; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: DFBCDC4A-E3A6-5CDB-858A-5FB32A9173E6

Notes

Colonies are fan-shaped and uniplanar, densely branched, with fine branches and a strong tree-like appearance. Colony height ~ 73 cm. Light yellow to pale orange in colour (Fig. 165).

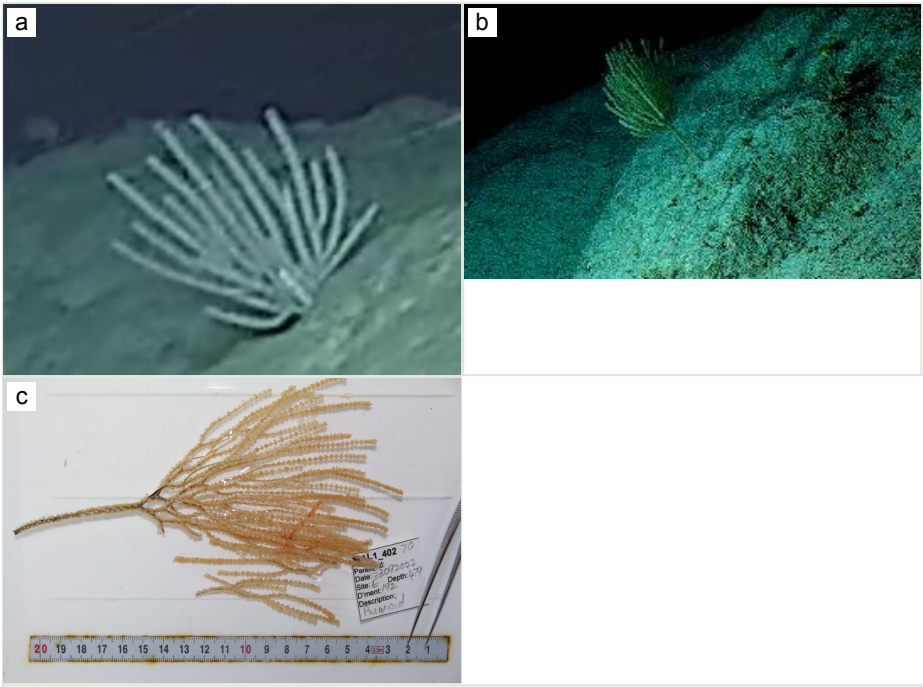

Figure 165.

Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 1

a: Laamu, 490 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 490 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_402; doi
c: Fuvahmulah, 490 m, collected specimen MAL1_402. doi

Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Primnoidae sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Primnoidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2026; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 276EEE10-9A48-5BE1-8CE7-A80B3D080EA6

Notes

Colonies are typically tall and fan-shaped. Colony height ~ 34 cm. Colouration light brown to orange/red (Fig. 166).

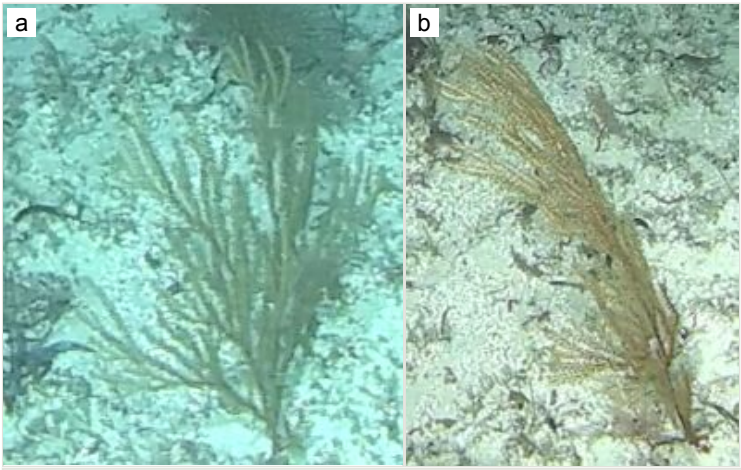

Figure 166.

Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 2

a: Laamu, 60 m; doi
b: Laamu, 60 m. doi

Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 3

Material

a. scientificName: Primnoidae sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Primnoidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 253; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2027; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: C2A171E6-BDF5-51D9-8C9D-A9E5203E1673

Notes

Colonies fan-shaped with dense branching. Branches become finer with a high degree of Anastomoses. Colony height ~ 32 cm. Pale orange with red tint in colour (Fig. 167).

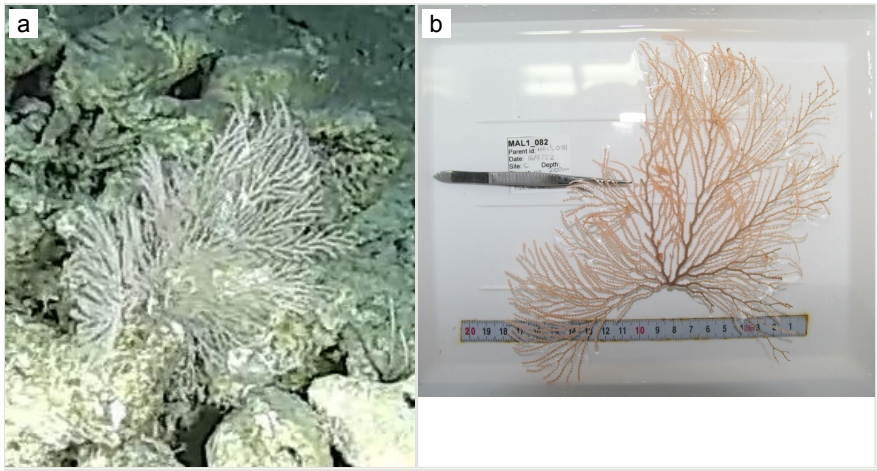

Figure 167.

Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 3

a: Huvadhu, 250 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_082; doi
b: Huvadhu, 250 m, collected specimen MAL1_082. doi

Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 4

Material

a. scientificName: Primnoidae sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Primnoidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 488; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2028; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 683B729C-E284-5246-BF3A-AA949A59F960

Notes

Shorter fan-shaped colonies, white to pale yellow in colour. Branches appear thicker than in other P. species. Colony height ~ 64 cm (Fig. 168).

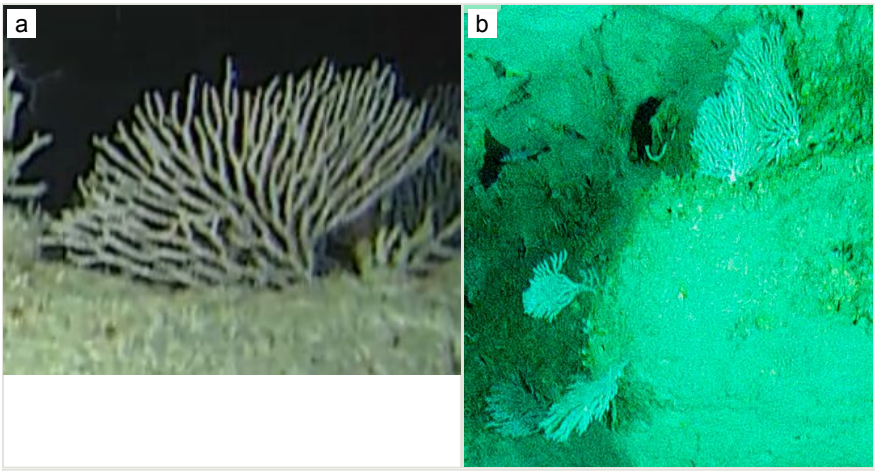

Figure 168.

Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 4

a: Huvadhu, 490 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 490 m. doi

Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 5

Material

a. scientificName: Primnoidae sp. 5; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; order: Scleralcyonacea; family: Primnoidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2029; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 937DF3BC-FD43-53BA-A246-D33D664A7BC7

Notes

Branching, tall colonies with a single main truck and a tree-like growth form. Colony height ~ 91 cm. White with a red tint (Fig. 169).

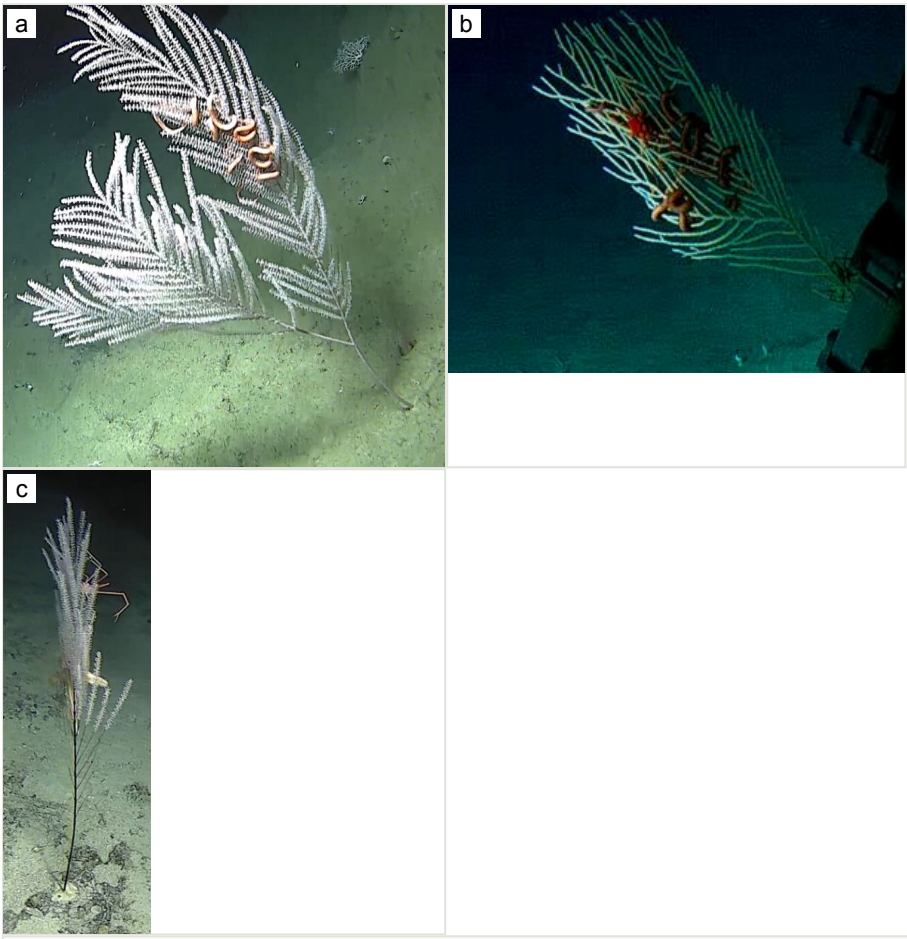

Figure 169.

Primnoidae gen. indet. sp. 5

a: North Male', 490 m; doi
b: North Male', 490 m; doi
c: Huvadhu, 490 m. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 3

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2030; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery;

basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 6FED4268-A55F-593A-B20C-D320AFC81C2D

Notes

Colonies fan-shaped, mostly uniplanar with thicker main stem and thinner branches. Colony height ~ 38 cm. Brown to red shades in colour (Fig. 170).

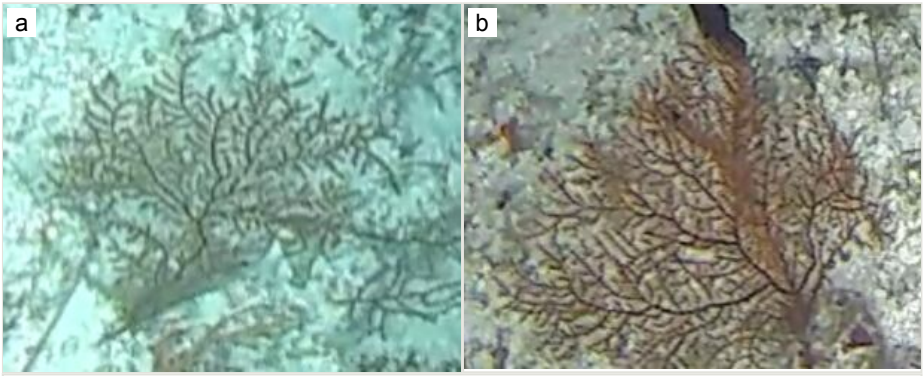

Figure 170.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 3

a: Laamu, 60 m; doi
b: Laamu, 60 m. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 4

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 59; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2031; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Fan-shaped colony with tree-like dense branching. Colony height ~ 31 cm. Yellow-green in colour (Fig. 171).

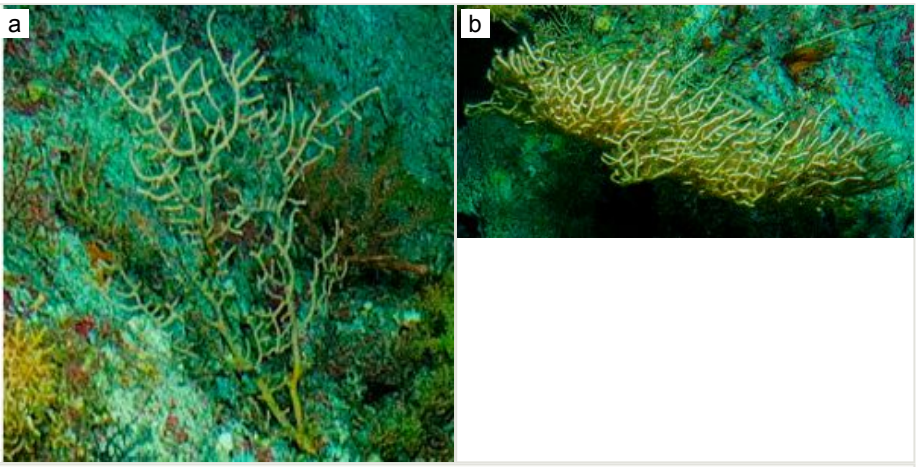

Figure 171.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 4

a: Fuvahmulah, 120 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 120 m. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 5

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 5; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 57; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2032; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Branching fan-shaped colonies with a thicker main stem and several thinner branches. Colony height ~ 70 cm. Colouration red, pink and deep purple (Fig. 172).

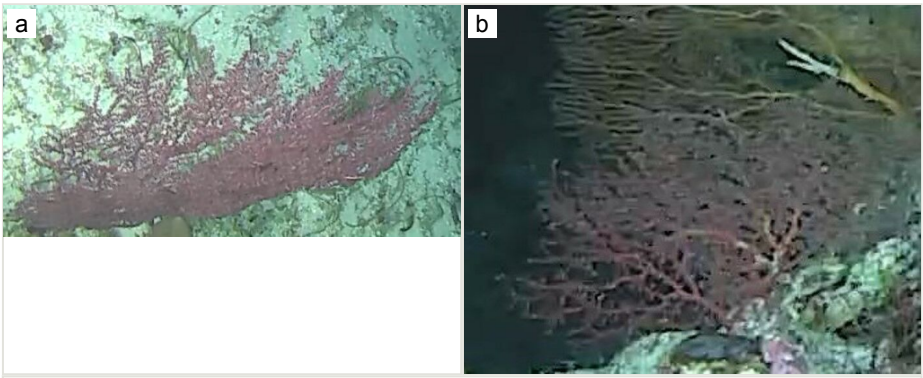

Figure 172.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 5

a: Laamu, 60 m; doi
b: Addu, 60 m. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 6

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 6; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 11; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2033; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies with sparse branching with obvious polyps giving a knobbly appearance. Colony height ~ 31 cm (Fig. 173).

Figure 173. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 6, Vaavu, 120 m.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 7

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 7; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Fuvahmulah, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 53; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2034; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies heavily branched bushy appearance with a thicker main stem. Colony height ~ 22 cm. Light pink to red in colour, polyps look darker (Fig. 174).

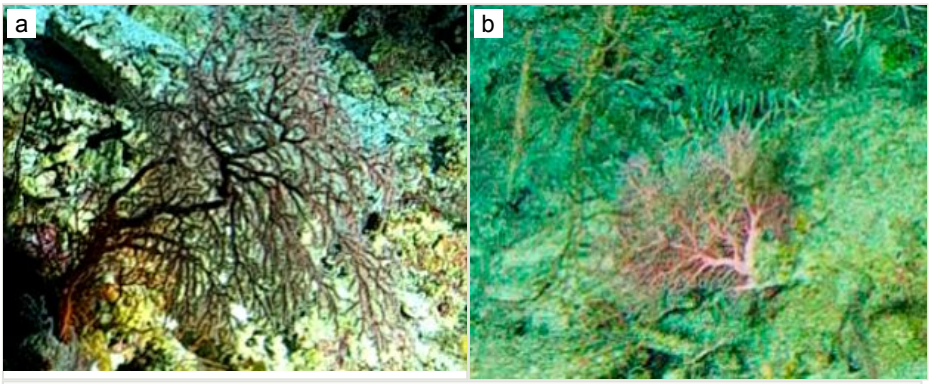

Figure 174.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 7

a: Fuvahmulah, ~ 120 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 120 m. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 8

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 8; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 60; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2035; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Tall branching colonies with thick main stem and dense branches. Colony height ~ 263 cm (Fig. 175).

Figure 175. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 8, North Male', 120 m.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 9

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 9; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 53; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2036; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies small, with sparse, dichotomous branching and a twig-like appearance. No visible polyp calices. Colony height ~ 92 cm. Yellow in colour (Fig. 176).

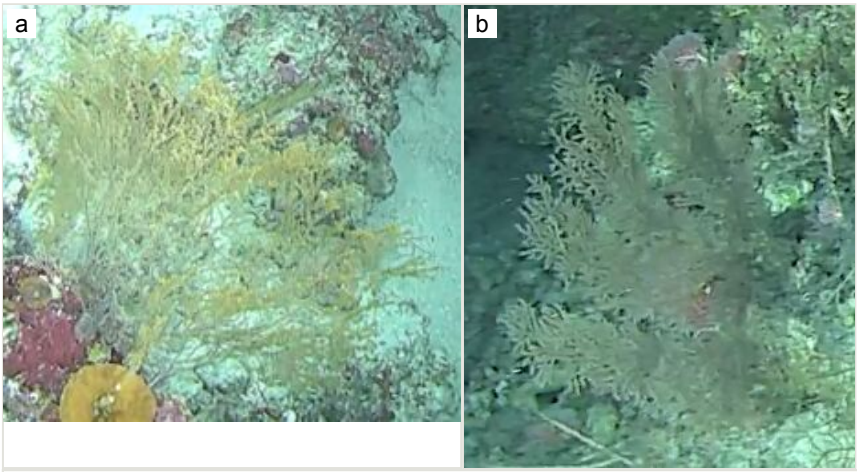

Figure 176.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 9

a: Vaavu, 60 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 120 m. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 10

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 10; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 118; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2037; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Large branched tree-like colonies. Thicker main stem that divides into bushy clusters. Colony height ~ 124 cm. Yellow to orange in colour (Fig. 177).

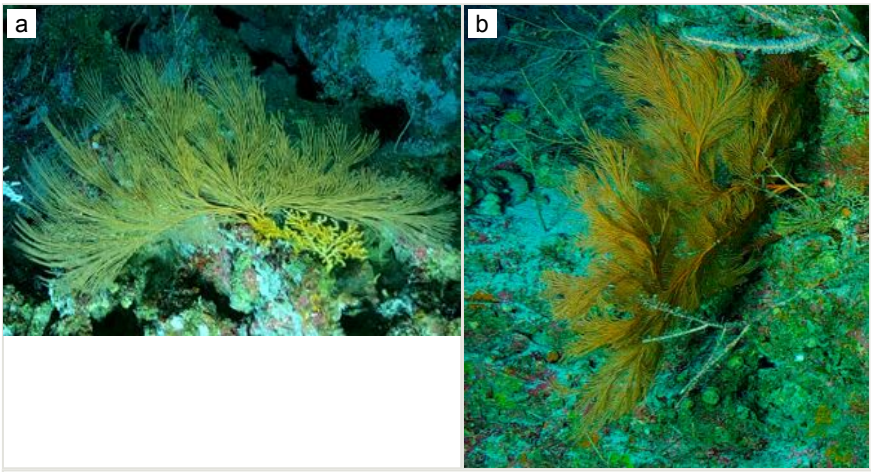

Figure 177.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 10

a: Fuvahmulah, ~120 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 120 m. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 11

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 11; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 490; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2038; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies branched with single main stem and several thinner branches, there is a strong tree-like appearance. Main stem is darker than the lighter pale brown branches. Colony height ~ 25 cm (Fig. 178).

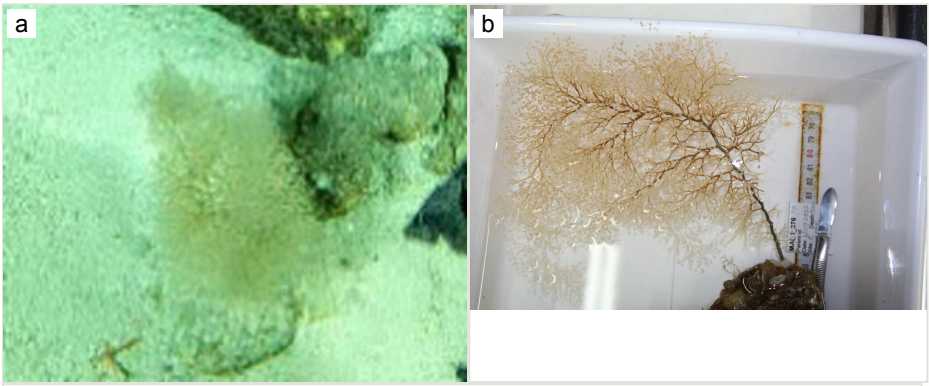

Figure 178.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 11

a: Fuvahmulah, 490 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_376; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 490 m, collected specimen MAL1_376. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 12

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 12; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2039; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Broad, bottlebrush-shaped colony with densely-packed, fine branches that gives an overall fluffy appearance from afar. Colony height ~ 33 cm. Large bulbous polyps are the same dark brown-reddish colour as thicker stems (Fig. 179).

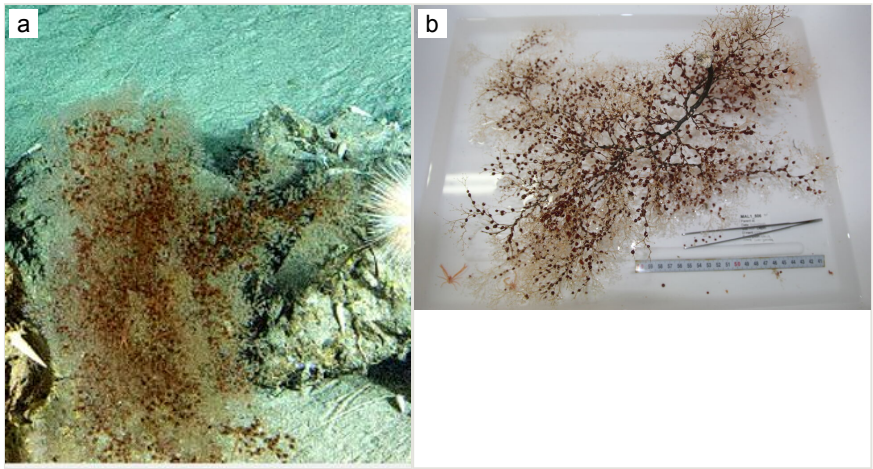

Figure 179.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 12

a: Huvadhu, 120 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_506; doi
b: Huvadhu, 120 m, collected specimen MAL1_506. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 13

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 13; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 120; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2040; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Densely branched tree-like colonies with a bushy appearance. Pale to yellowish- green colour (Fig. 180).

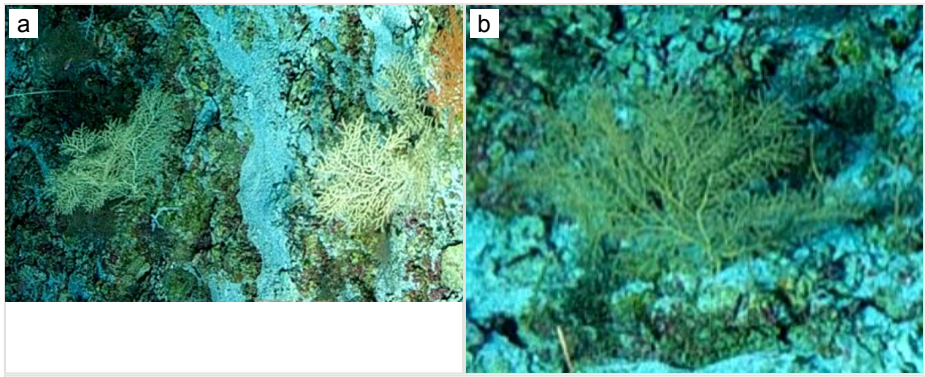

Figure 180.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 13

a: Fuvahmulah, ~ 120 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, ~ 120 m. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 14

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 14; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 250; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2041; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Branching colonies with shorter bushier branches. Polyps are obvious and give a fluffy appearance. Colony height ~ 13 cm. Yellow in colour. Although assigned to Octocorallia, it also resembles zoanthids (Zoantharia) (Fig. 181).

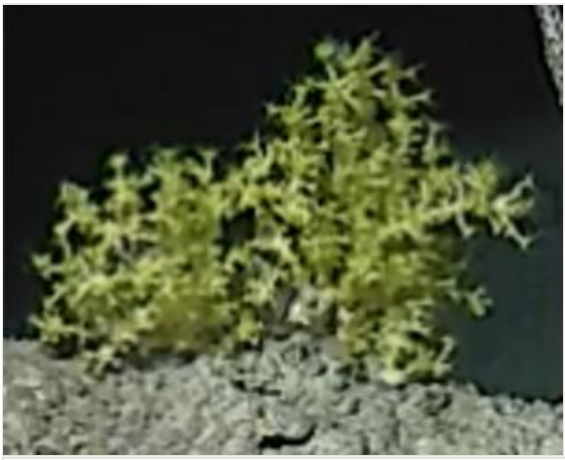

Figure 181. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 14, Addu, 250 m.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 15

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 15; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 59; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2042; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies bushy with several thinner branches creating dense bush appearance. Colony height ~ 53 cm (Fig. 182).

Figure 182. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 15, Laamu, 60 m.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 18

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 18; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 53; maximumDepthInMeters: 61; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2044; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies are short with irregular branching. Branches are thin and almost twig-like. Colony height ~ 40 cm. Pale yellow to bright yellow in colour. Visually somewhat resembles Plexauridae sp. 13 from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021), (Fig. 183).

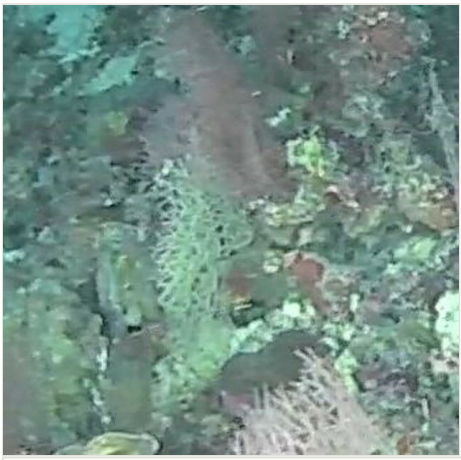

Figure 183. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 18, Vaavu, 60 m.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 19

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 19; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 490; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2045; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Heavily branched colonies with a bushy appearance and single thicker main stem (Fig. 184).

Figure 184. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 19, Fuvahmulah, 490 m.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 20

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 20; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2046; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies heavily branched with fan-like appearance. Thicker stems are dark brown with thinner pale brown branches creating a fluffy appearance. Colony height ~ 37 cm (Fig. 185).

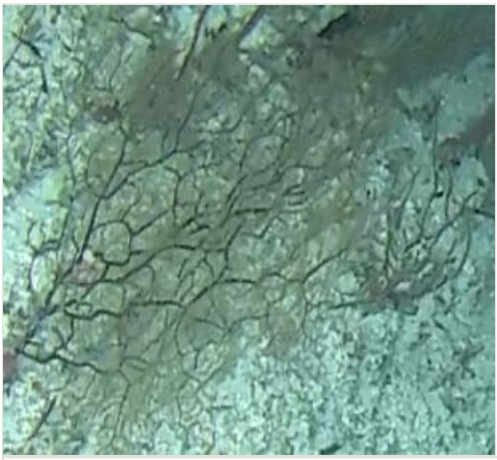

Figure 185. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 20, Laamu, 60 m.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 21

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 21; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 120; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2047; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies delicately branched with a thicker main stem. Colours range from white, pink, red to orange (Fig. 186).

Figure 186. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 21, Fuvahmulah, 120 m.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 22

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 22; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 57; maximumDepthInMeters: 61; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2048; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Branching colonies with obvious polyps on the thinner branches giving a fluffy appearance. Branches seem longer and less dense. Colony height ~ 36 cm (Fig. 187).

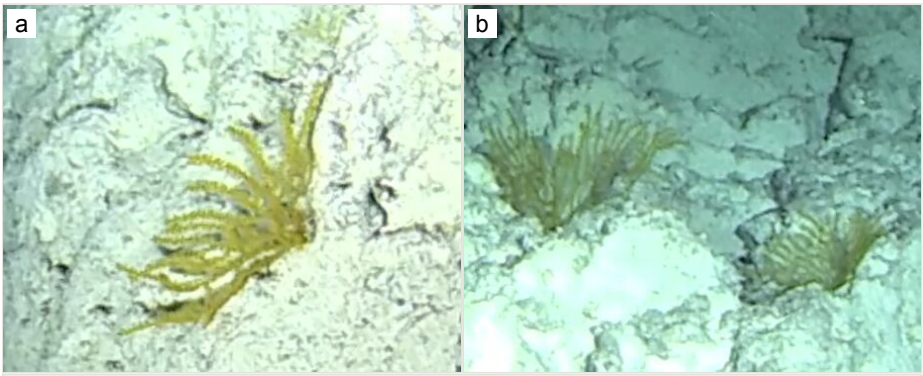

Figure 187.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 22

a: Fuvahmulah, 490 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 490 m. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 24

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 24; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 26; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2049; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Tree-like branched colonies. Colony height ~ 23 cm. Branches more sparsely spaced than Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 3 (Fig. 188).

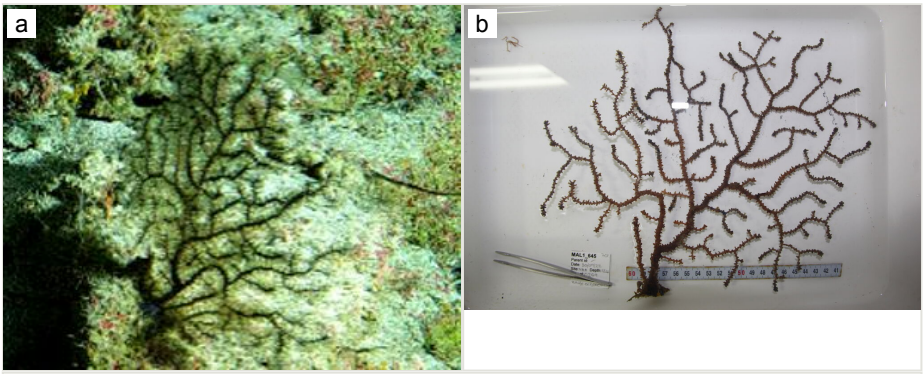

Figure 188.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 24

a: Vaavu, 124 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_645; doi
b: Vaavu, 124 m, collected specimen MAL1_645. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 25

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 25; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 53; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2050; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Branching colonies with dense branches giving a bushy appearance. Colony height ~ 40 cm. Pale brown to red-orange shades (Fig. 189).

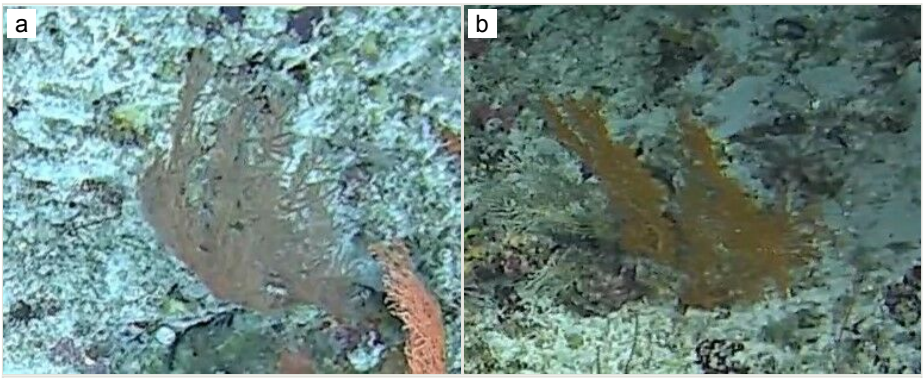

Figure 189.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 25

a: Laamu, 60 m; doi
b: Laamu, 60 m. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 27

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 27; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 30; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2051; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Branched colonies with fleshy short branches. Obvious polyps create a fluffy appearance. Colony height ~ 30 cm. White to blue-grey in colour (Fig. 190).

Figure 190. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 27, Huvadhu, 30 m.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 29

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 29; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 59; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2052; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Small branched colonies with bushy appearance. Colony height ~ 16 cm. Purple-black in colour. Only seen in Addu (Fig. 191).

Figure 191. doi

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 29, Addu, 60 m.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 31

Material

a. scientificName: Octocorallia sp. 31; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Octocorallia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 115; maximumDepthInMeters: 120; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2053; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Delicate branched colonies with tree-like appearance. Colony height ~ 33 cm. White in colour (Fig. 192).

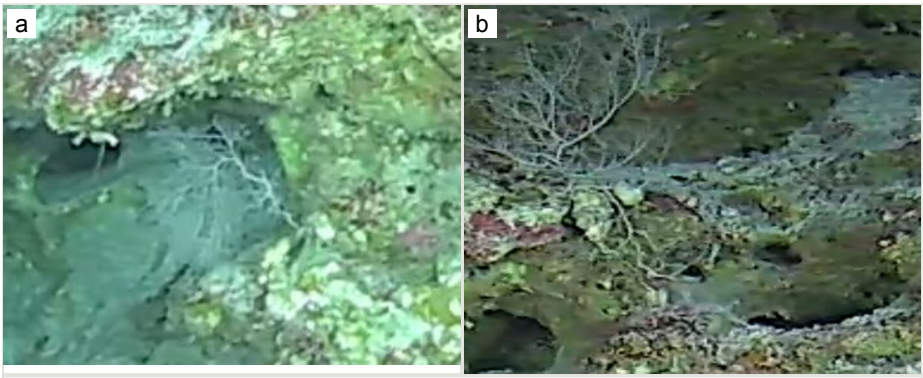

Figure 192.

Octocorallia ord. indet. sp. 31

a: Addu, 120 m; doi
b: Addu, 120 m. doi

Ceriantharia stet.

Material

a. scientificName: Ceriantharia; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Anthozoa-Ceriantharia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 247; maximumDepthInMeters: 251; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Tube-dwelling anemone with a long muscular column. Oral disc diameter ~ 12 cm. Tentacles are sparsely spaced and arranged in radial rows (Fig. 193).

Figure 193. doi

Ceriantharia stet., North Male', 250 m.

Millepora sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: *Millepora* sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Hydrozoa; order: Anthoathecata; family: Milleporidae; genus: *Millepora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Branching colonies with thick-lobed projections or cylindrical branches. Colony size ~ 23 cm. Light brown to yellow-green, normally with pale white tips on branches (Fig. 194).

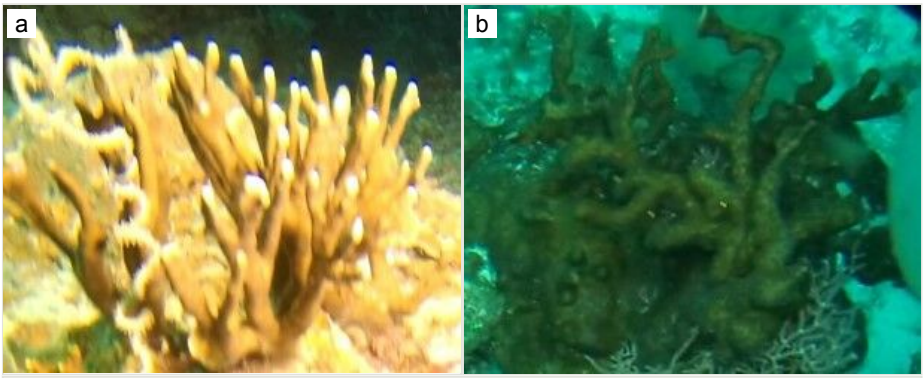

Figure 194.

Millepora sp. indet. 1

a: Addu, 30 m; doi
b: Laamu, 30 m. doi

Millepora sp. indet. 2

Material

a. scientificName: *Millepora* sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Hydrozoa; order: Anthoathecata; family: Milleporidae; genus: *Millepora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 8; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Massive encrusting colonies with smooth surfaces and small corallites, but short, thick branches form, giving a knobbly appearance. Colony size ~ 24 cm. Brown to greenish-yellow (Fig. 195).

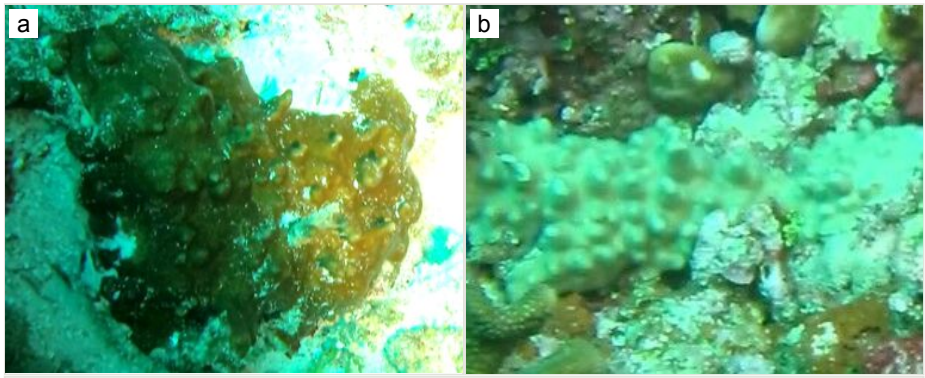

Figure 195.

Millepora sp. indet. 2

a: Laamu, 30 m; doi
b: Laamu, 10 m. doi

Millepora sp. indet. 3

Material

a. scientificName: *Millepora* sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Hydrozoa; order: Anthoathecata; family: Milleporidae; genus: *Millepora*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Massive encrusting colonies with smooth surface and small corallites, but short thick branches form giving a knobbly appearance. Colony size ~ 24 cm across. Brown to greenish-yellow (Fig. 196).

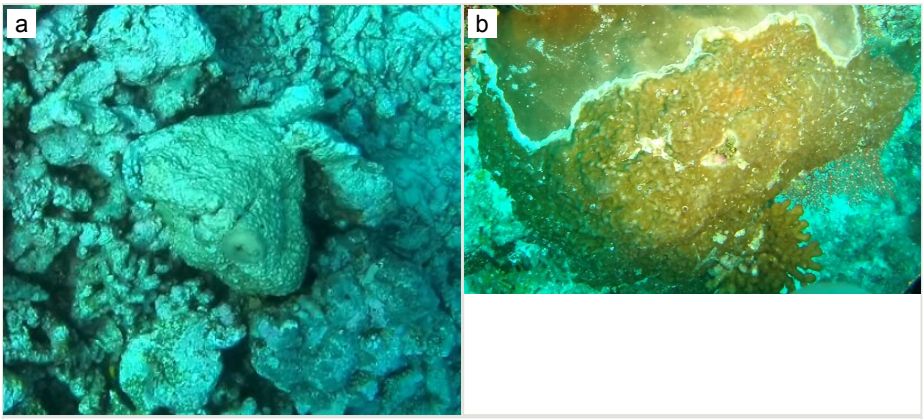

Figure 196.

Millepora sp. indet. 3

a: Addu, 10 m; doi
b: Laamu, 30 m. doi

Crypthelia gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: *Crypthelia* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Hydrozoa; order: Anthoathecata; family: Stylasteridae; genus: *Crypthelia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 249; maximumDepthInMeters: 487; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 1ED3B82C-D15B-5BD6-B9F1-300C9FF2036A

Notes

Branching colonies pure white in colour. Colony height ~ 9 cm. Fan-shaped with dense branching with bulbous knobs (Fig. 197).

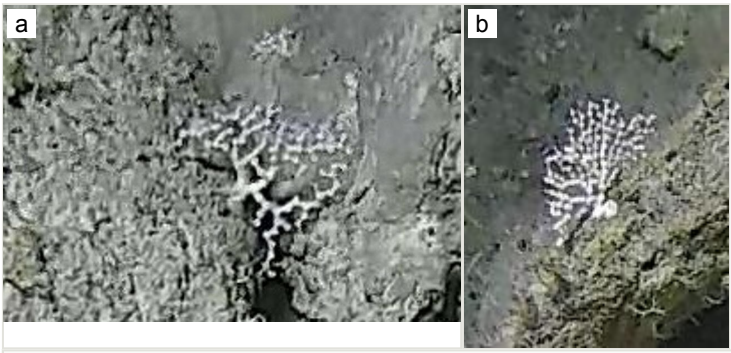

Figure 197.

Crypthelia gen. indet. sp.

a: Addu, 250 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 250 m. doi

Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 4

Material

a. scientificName: Stylasteridae sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Hydrozoa; order: Anthoathecata; family: Stylasteridae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 116; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies delicately branched with branches ending in sympodial fashion. Colony height ~ 19 cm. Colouration pale white, yellow, pink and orange (Fig. 198).

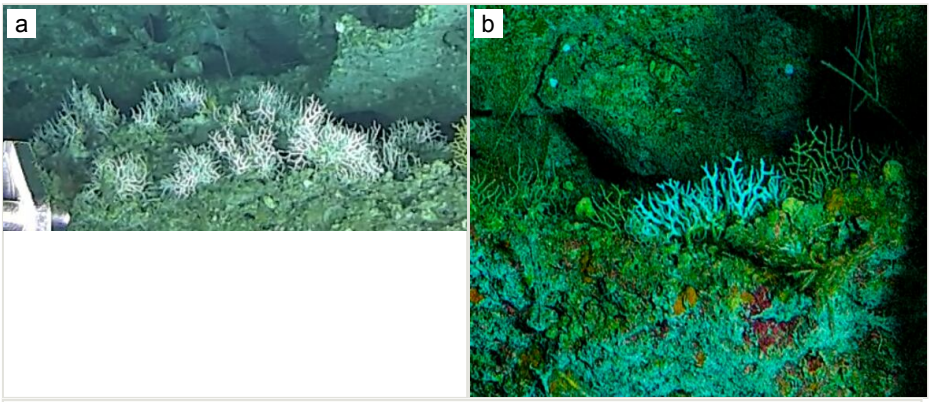

Figure 198.

Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 4

a: Addu, 120 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 120 m. doi

Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 5

Material

a. scientificName: Stylasteridae sp. 5; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Hydrozoa; order: Anthoathecata; family: Stylasteridae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 251; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Small colonies moderately to sparsely branched with a tree-like appearance. Colony height ~ 9 cm. Main stem divides into thicker branches. White in colour (Fig. 199).

Figure 199. doi

Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 5, Huvadhu, 250 m.

Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 6

Material

a. scientificName: Stylasteridae sp. 6; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Hydrozoa; order: Anthoathecata; family: Stylasteridae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 488; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies short and branched with tree-like appearance. Colony height ~ 4 cm. Colour is white (Fig. 200).

Figure 200. doi

Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 6, North Male', 490 m.

Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 7

Material

a. scientificName: Stylasteridae sp. 7; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Hydrozoa; order: Anthoathecata; family: Stylasteridae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Fan-shaped branching colonies. Branching in one plane in a mesh pattern. Colony height ~ 9 cm. White colour (Fig. 201).

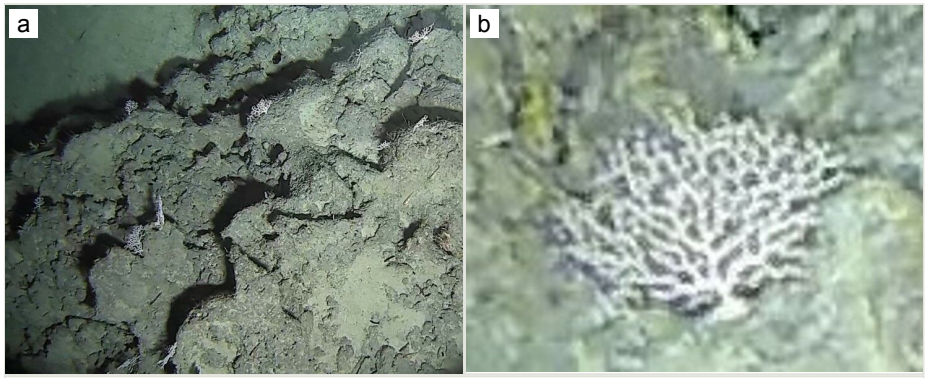

Figure 201.

Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 7

a: Addu, 250 m; doi
b: Addu, 250 m. doi

Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 8

Material

a. scientificName: Stylasteridae sp. 8; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Hydrozoa; order: Anthoathecata; family: Stylasteridae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 116; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Short branched colonies. Fewer thicker branches than other S. sp. Colony height ~ 10 cm. White in colour (Fig. 202).

Figure 202.

Stylasteridae gen. indet. sp. 8

a: Addu, 120 m; doi
b: Addu, 120 m. doi

Hydrozoa ord. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Hydrozoa sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Hydrozoa; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Delicate branched colonies with obvious hydrothecae giving a bumpy appearance. Pale grey to yellow in colour (Fig. 203).

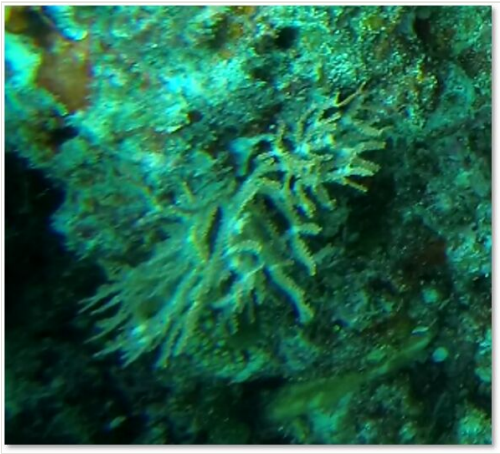

Figure 203. doi

Hydrozoa ord. indet. sp. 1, North Male', 10 m.

Hydrozoa ord. indet. sp. 4

Material

a. scientificName: Hydrozoa sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Hydrozoa; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Small branching colonies on sediment. Colony height ~ 5 cm. Dark brown to black in colour (Fig. 204).

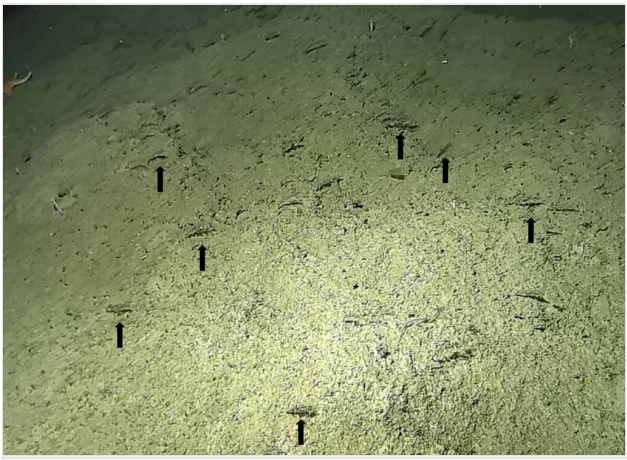

Figure 204. doi

Hydrozoa ord. indet. sp. 4, North Male', 490 m.

Hydrozoa ord. indet. sp. 5

Material

a. scientificName: Hydrozoa sp. 5; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Cnidaria; class: Hydrozoa; scientificNameAuthorship: Owen, 1843; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Tree-like branching colonies with thick fleshy trunks. Colony height ~ 55 cm. Brown and yellow in colour (Fig. 205).

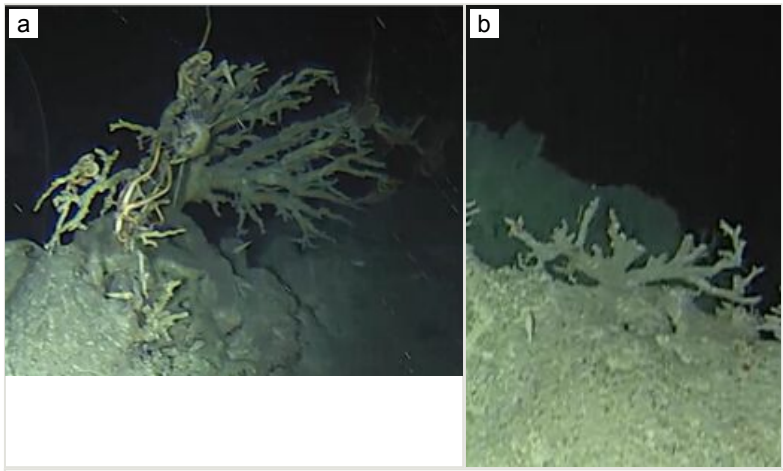

Figure 205.

Hydrozoa ord. indet. sp. 5

a: Addu, 490 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 490 m. doi

Lyrocteis sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Lyrocteis* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Ctenophora; class: Tentaculata; order: Platyctenida; family: Lyroctenidae; genus: *Lyrocteis*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: TBD; minimumDepthInMeters: TBD; maximumDepthInMeters: TBD; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

A benthic ctenophore with a slim stalk and fleshy-looking body. Light yellow to white in colour with a darker colour on the stalk. Approximate height was 27 cm. Collected specimen (Fig. 206). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

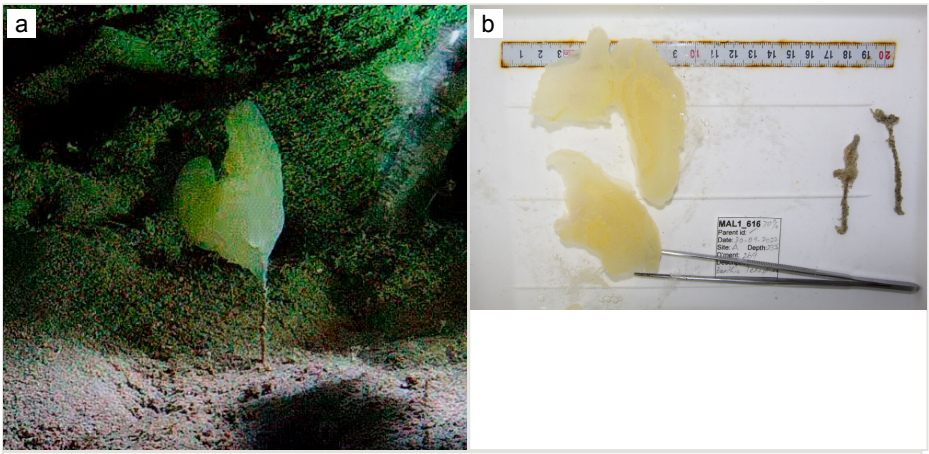

Figure 206.

Lyrocteis sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 238 m, *in situ* of collected specimen MAL1_616; doi
b: Vaavu, 238 m, collected specimen MAL1_616. doi

Tridacna sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Tridacna* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Mollusca; class: Bivalvia; order: Cardiida; family: Cardiidae; genus: *Tridacna*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Large bivalve with a thick shell. Adult individuals have exposed mantle and fluted shell with 4-6 folds. Approximately 13 cm in the longest dimension. The mantle is colourful and patterned in hues of bright green, blue, purple and brown (Fig. 207). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Figure 207. doi

Tridacna sp. indet., North Male', 10 m.

Bivalvia ord. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Bivalvia sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Mollusca; class: Bivalvia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 120; maximumDepthInMeters: 487; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Bivalves with white or cream-coloured shells encrusted in hard substratum, sometimes found in groups, with several over a few metres. Size ~ 4 cm (Fig. 208).

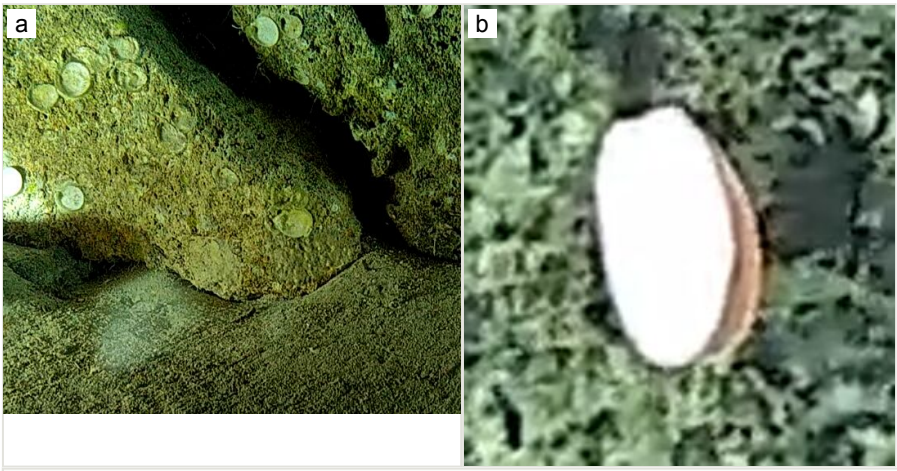

Figure 208.

Bivalvia ord. indet. sp. 1

a: Fuvahmulah, 490 m; doi
b: Laamu, 490 m. doi

Bivalvia ord. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Bivalvia sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Mollusca; class: Bivalvia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 485; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Elongated shell, sometimes on soft sediment, shell dark grey in colour. Size ~ 5 cm (Fig. 209).

Figure 209. doi

Bivalvia ord. indet. sp. 2, Huvadhu, 490 m.

Bivalvia ord. indet. sp. 3

Material

a. scientificName: Bivalvia sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Mollusca; class: Bivalvia; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 60; maximumDepthInMeters: 251; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Bivalve with symmetrical, vertical ridges. Size ~ 9 cm (Fig. 210).

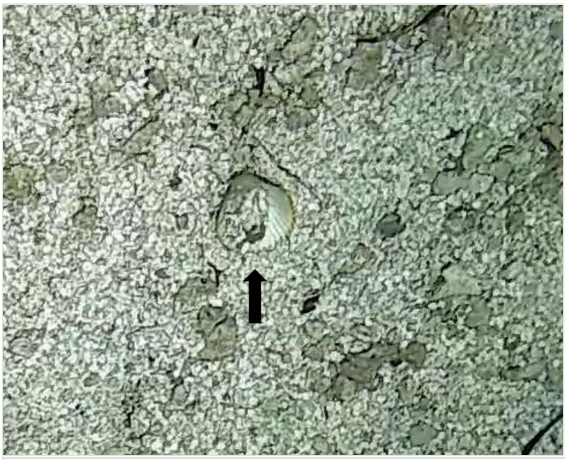

Figure 210. doi

Bivalvia ord. indet. sp. 3, Laamu, 250 m.

Octopoda fam. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Octopoda sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Mollusca; class: Cephalopoda; order: Octopoda; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 495; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

A broad-mantled octopus with a primary colouration of reddish-brown and orange, although they can quickly change colour for camouflage. Approximately 20 cm in longest dimension. Typically found with arms curled and suckers visible (Fig. 211).

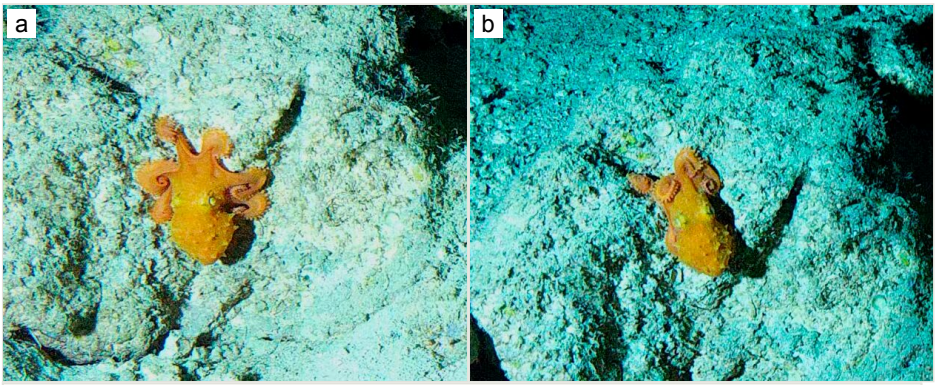

Figure 211.

Octopoda fam. indet. sp.

a: Vaavu, 250 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 250 m. doi

Strombidae gen. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Strombidae sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Mollusca; class: Gastropoda; order: Littorinimorpha; family: Strombidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu Addu;; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

A medium-spired shell with an elongated triangular shape. Size ~ 4 cm (Fig. 212).

Figure 212. doi

Strombidae gen. indet. sp. 1, Addu, 250 m.

Strombidae gen. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Strombidae sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Mollusca; class: Gastropoda; order: Littorinimorpha; family: Strombidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 120; maximumDepthInMeters: 251; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

A moderate-spired shell with a flared aperture. Size ~ 4-5 cm in the longest dimension. Light brown to dark brown in colour with a symmetric pattern (Fig. 213).

Figure 213. doi

Strombidae gen. indet. sp. 2, Huvadhu, ~ 120-250 m.

Conoidea gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Conoidea sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Mollusca; class: Gastropoda; order: Neogastropoda; family: Conoidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 491; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

A cone-shaped snail with a long, high-spired shell, shell white in colour. Size ~ 6 cm. Often seen in large groups distributed across hard substratum (Fig. 214).

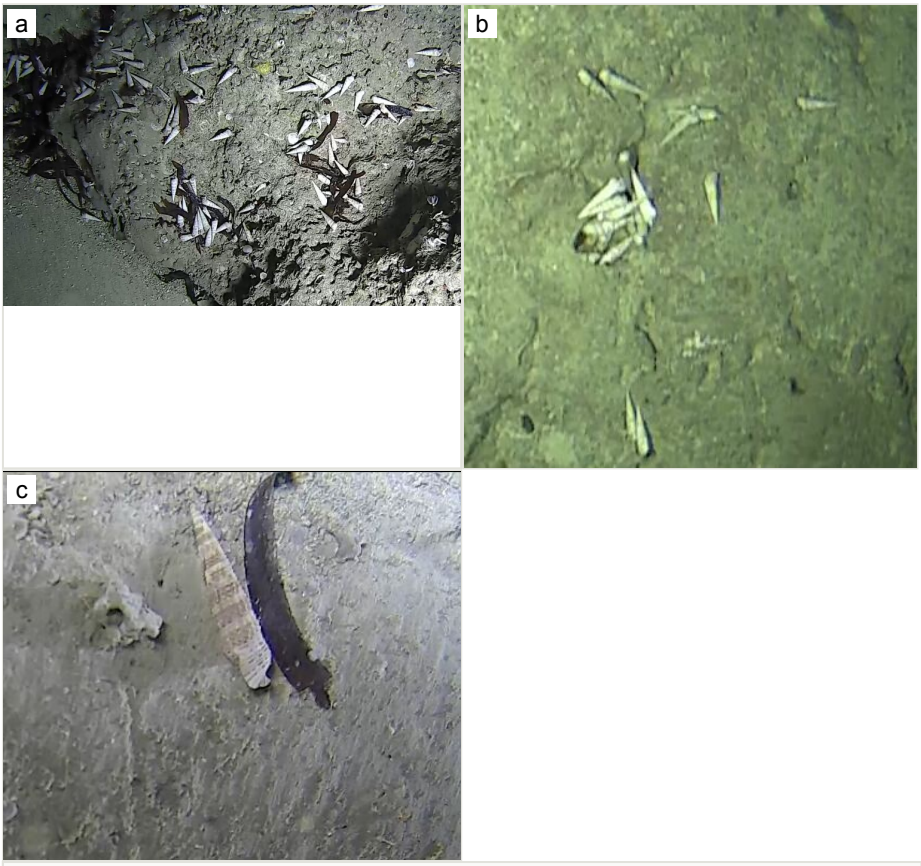

Figure 214.

Conoidea gen. indet. sp.

a: Huvadhu, 490 m; doi
b: Laamu, 490 m; doi
c: Huvadhu, 490 m. doi

Drupella sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Drupella* sp. indet.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Mollusca; class: Gastropoda; order: Neogastropoda; family: Muricidae; genus: *Drupella*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Small sized sea snails with small teeth-like lateral bumps on the shell, shell usually covered in Coralline algae. Length ~ 4 cm (Fig. 215).

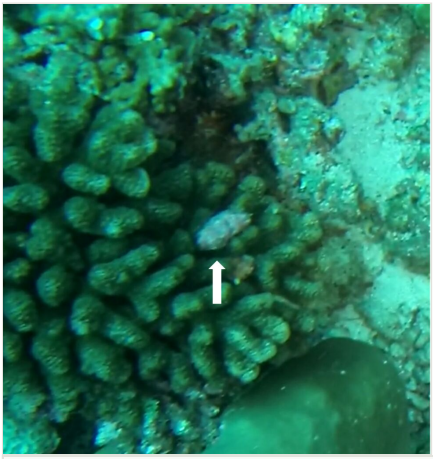

Figure 215. doi

Drupella sp. indet., North Male', 10 m.

Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Polychaeta sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Annelida; class: Polychaeta; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 247; maximumDepthInMeters: 251; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Calcareous tube in a chalky white or grey colour. Approximately ~ 29 cm long (Fig. 216).

Figure 216. doi

Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 1, Addu, 250 m.

Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Polychaeta sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Annelida; class: Polychaeta; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 249; maximumDepthInMeters: 491; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Elongated and flat polychaete of blue to purple in colour with white and black spots. Approximately ~ 15 cm long (Fig. 217).

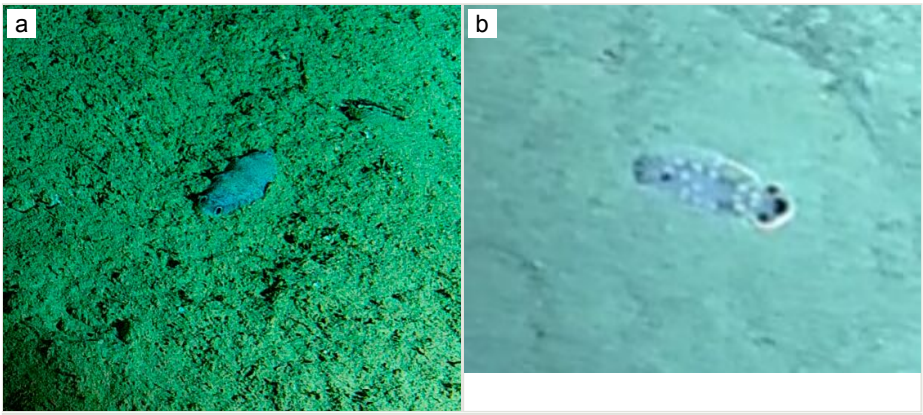

Figure 217.

Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 2

a: North Male', 490 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 490 m. doi

Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 3

Material

a. scientificName: Polychaeta sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Annelida; class: Polychaeta; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 488; maximumDepthInMeters: 491; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Tube of grey and greyish-white colour. Approximately ~ 10 cm long (Fig. 218).

Figure 218. doi

Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 3, Laamu, 490 m.

Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 4

Material

a. scientificName: Polychaeta sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Annelida; class: Polychaeta; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 485; maximumDepthInMeters: 491; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Polychaete tube of yellowish-white colour, irregular-shaped with rough surface. Approximately ~ 10 cm long (Fig. 219).

Figure 219. doi

Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 4, Laamu, 490 m.

Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 5

Material

a. scientificName: Polychaeta sp. 5; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Annelida; class: Polychaeta; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 250; maximumDepthInMeters: 253; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: DB931A3D-037A-5A5E-96F0-0057103577F7

Notes

Polychaete tube of brown to beige colour, smooth surface, elongate. Approximately ~ 13 cm long (Fig. 220).

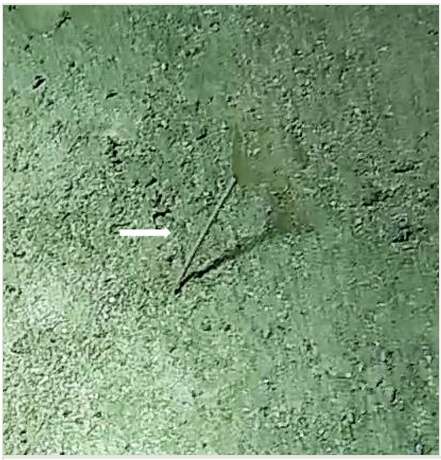

Figure 220. doi

Polychaeta ord. indet. sp. 5, North Male', 250 m.

Echiura ord. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Echiura sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Annelida; class: Polychaeta-Echiura; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 247; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Non-segmented and worm-like, with a cylindrical body. Approximately 14 cm in height. Colouration is light orange, pink and purple (Fig. 221).

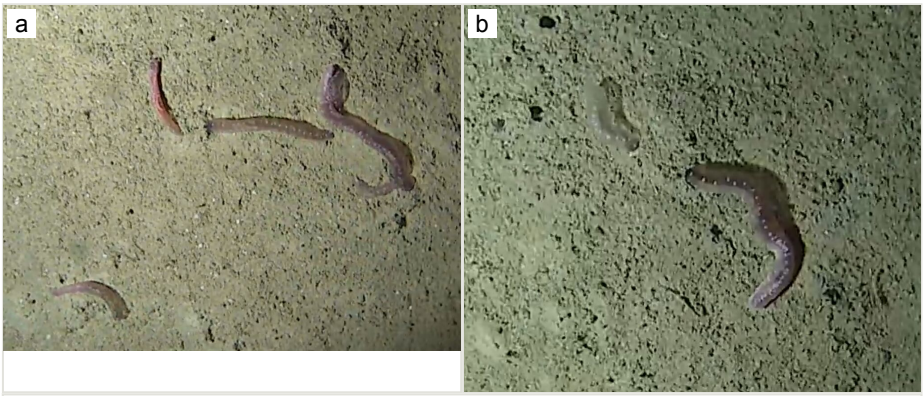

Figure 221.

Echiura ord. indet. sp.

a: Vaavu, 490 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 490 m. doi

Galatheoidea gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Galatheoidea sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda; family: Galatheoidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Fuvahmulah, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 249; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Large and thick pincers in bright orange and yellow colouration. Approximately ~ 13 cm in the longest dimension. The body is divided into a depressed anterior part and a posterior part (Fig. 222).

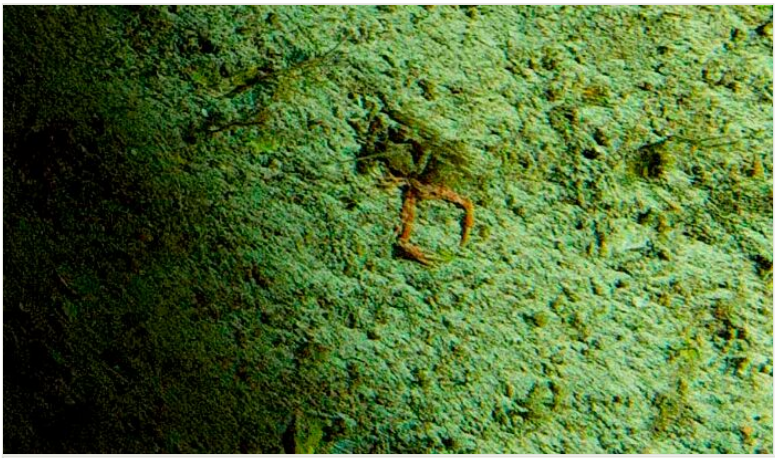

Figure 222. doi

Galatheoidea gen. indet. sp., Fuvahmulah, 250 m.

Chirostyloidea gen. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Chirostyloidea sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda; family: Chirostyloidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 246; maximumDepthInMeters: 251; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Long and thin pincers with a small forked-looking tip and a smooth carapace. Orange in colour with contrasting darker bands (Fig. 223).

Figure 223. doi

Chirostyloidea gen. indet. sp. 1, Laamu, 250 m.

Chirostyloidea gen. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Chirostyloidea sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda; family: Chirostyloidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 250; maximumDepthInMeters: 250; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Squat lobsters with moderately thick pincers with forked-looking tips. Approximately ~ 7 cm in the longest dimension. Carapace dorsally smooth. Colouration in brown and light orange (Fig. 224).

Figure 224. doi

Chirostyloidea gen. indet. sp. 2, Vaavu, 250 m.

Leucosiidae gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Leucosiidae sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda; family: Leucosiidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Round carapace with a thick body. Long hinged looking pincers. Approximately ~ 10 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration in light to dark orange and cream (Fig. 225).

Figure 225. doi

Leucosiidae gen. indet. sp., North Male', 490 m.

Munidopsidae gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Munidopsidae sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda; family: Munidopsidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Vaavu, Huvadhu, North Male', Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 247; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Longitudinal striped pattern on the carapace in reddish-brown colour. Approximately ~ 8 cm in the longest dimension. Small elongated carapace with thin pincers (Fig. 226).

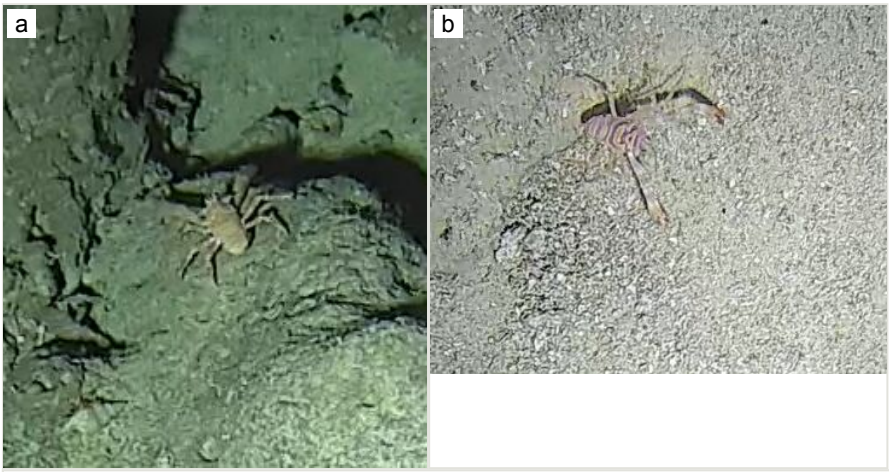

Figure 226.

Munidopsidae gen. indet. sp.

a: Addu, 490 m; doi
b: Addu, 250 m. doi

Mithracidae gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Mithracidae sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda; family: Mithracidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Sometimes camouflaged by body being covered with benthic organisms. Approximately ~ 16 cm in the longest dimension. Small oval carapace (Fig. 227).

Figure 227. doi

Mithracidae gen. indet. sp., North Male', 490 m.

Homolidae gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Homolidae sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda; family: Homolidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 491; maximumDepthInMeters: 491; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Round carapace with thin legs that are longer than the body. Approximately ~ 30 cm in the longest dimension. Sometimes carries urchins or other benthic organisms on its carapace (Fig. 228).

Figure 228.

Homolidae gen. indet. sp.

a: Laamu, 490 m; doi
b: Laamu, 490 m. doi

Paguropsis confusa Lemaitre, Rahayu & Komai, 2018

Material

a. scientificName: ***Paguropsis confusa***; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda; family: Paguroidea; genus: ***Paguropsis***; scientificNameAuthorship: Lemaitre, Rahayu & Komai, 2018; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 247; maximumDepthInMeters: 251; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

A blanket-hermit crab with a sub-rectangular-shaped body. Has specialised chelate legs similar to ice-block tongs in shape. Approximately ~ 7 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration white with orange patches (Fig. 229).

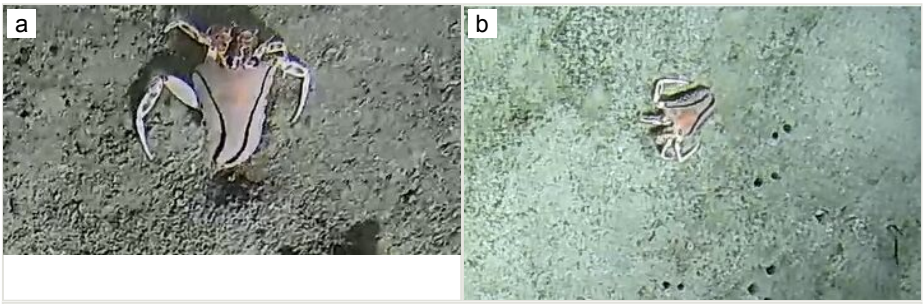

Figure 229.

Paguropsis confusa

a: North Male', 250 m; doi
b: North Male', 250 m. doi

Aristeidae gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Aristeidae sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda; family: Aristeidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 247; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Benthopelagic shrimps with a light coloured, almost transulescent carapace and abdomen and distinct orange-red colour on the edge of scaphocerites (flattened plate near the antennae) and tips of tail fin. Approximately ~ 6 cm long (Fig. 230).

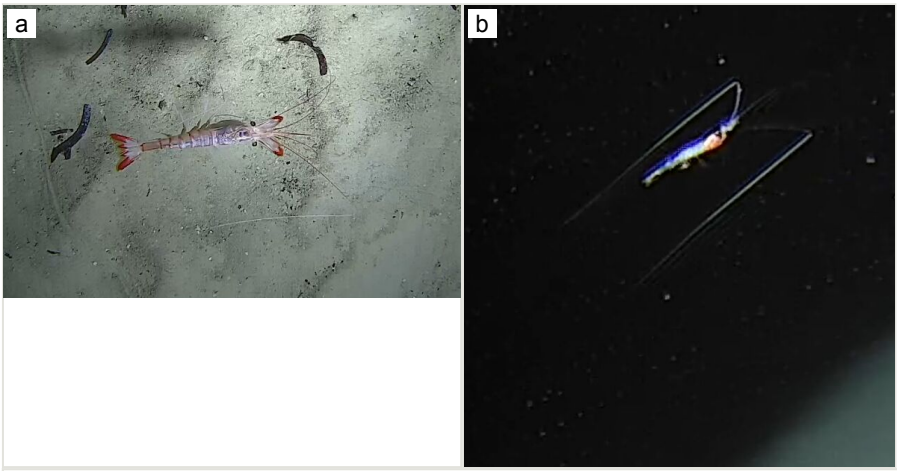

Figure 230.

Aristeidae gen. indet. sp.

a: Adult, Huvadhu, 490 m; doi
b: Juvenile, Vaavu, 490 m. doi

Xanthidae gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Xanthidae sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda-Brachyura; family: Xanthidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 490; maximumDepthInMeters: 491; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Body wider than it is long and strongly depressed. Bown and red colouration on the body with darker, almost black colour on the claw tips (Fig. 231).

Figure 231. doi

Xanthidae gen. indet. sp., Huvadhu, 490 m.

Calappidae gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Calappidae sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda-Brachyura; family: Calappidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 60; maximumDepthInMeters: 250; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Thicker oval body that is wider than it is long. Some crabs have the ability to look box-like by hiding legs and claws near their carapace, giving it the name box crabs. Approximately ~ 17 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration is light orange and light brown, sometimes with dark brown spots or patches on the carapace and legs (Fig. 232).

Figure 232. doi

Calappidae gen. indet. sp., North Male', 250 m.

Geryonidae gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Geryonidae sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda-Brachyura; family: Geryonidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 490; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Deep-sea crabs with a thick carapace that is almost ovular in shape. Approximately ~ 37 cm in the longest dimension. Legs are long and slim and are longer than the body. Colouration light brown and cream (Fig. 233).

Figure 233. doi

Geryonidae gen. indet. sp., Huvadhu, 490 m.

Caridea fam. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Caridea sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Malacostraca; order: Decapoda-Caridea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2024; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Translucent looking carapace and abdomen with white spots on abdominal segments. Approximately ~ 20 cm in long (Fig. 234).

Figure 234. doi

Caridea fam. indet. sp., Huvadhu, 490 m.

Bryozoa clas. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Bryozoa sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Bryozoa; scientificNameAuthorship: Not documented; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Adhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 60; maximumDepthInMeters: 250; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Bryozoans growing in clumps with erect cylindrical zooids (Fig. 235).

Figure 235. doi

Bryozoa clas. indet. sp. 1, Vaavu, 120 m.

Cellaria sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Cellaria* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Bryozoa; class: Gymnolaemata; order: Cheilostomatida; family: Cellariidae; genus: *Cellaria*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

An erect bryozoan forming clumps and hexagonal zooids with cylindrical branches (internodes). Approximately 16 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration in cream and yellowish-light brown (Fig. 236).

Figure 236. doi

Cellaria sp. indet., Laamu, 30 m.

Brisingidae gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Brisingidae sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Brisingida; family: Brisingidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 250; maximumDepthInMeters: 251; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Multiple long slender arms with lateral spines, with a small distinct disc. Approximately 40 cm in the longest dimension. Arms slightly wider at base. Colouration in shades of peach and pink with a lighter colour on the central disc and darker spines on the arms (Fig. 237).

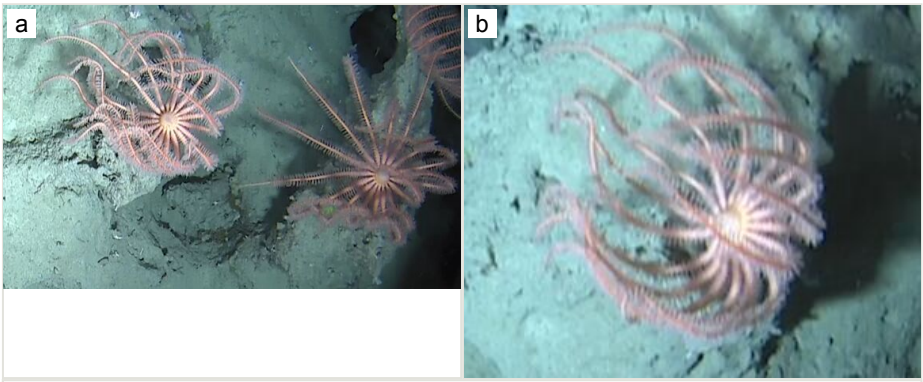

Figure 237.

Brisingidae gen. indet. sp.

a: Vaavu, 250 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 250 m. doi

Sclerasterias sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Sclerasterias* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Forcipulatida; family: Asteriidae; genus: *Sclerasterias*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Fuvahmulah, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 60; maximumDepthInMeters: 488; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Five gently tapered arms, spiky surface throughout the abactinal surface. Approximately 20 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration in beige with darker reddish-orange or brown patches on arms and central disc. Arm structure is not merged and broken from the central disc. Pedicellariae are evident along the mid-line of arms and on the central disc (Fig. 238). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

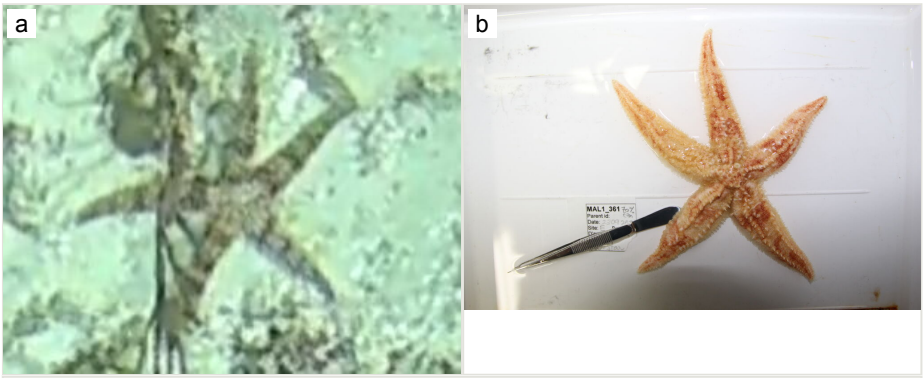

Figure 238.

Sclerasterias sp. indet.

a: Laamu, 60 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 488 m, collected specimen MAL1_361. doi

Persephonaster sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Persephonaster* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Paxillosida; family: Astropectinidae; genus: *Persephonaster*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 488; maximumDepthInMeters: 494; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2024; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Five geometric arms gently tapered into a pointy tip and raised mid-line. Approximately 24 cm in the longest dimension. Marginal plates and central disc inconspicuous. Darker colouration on the central disc in tones of orange (Fig. 239).

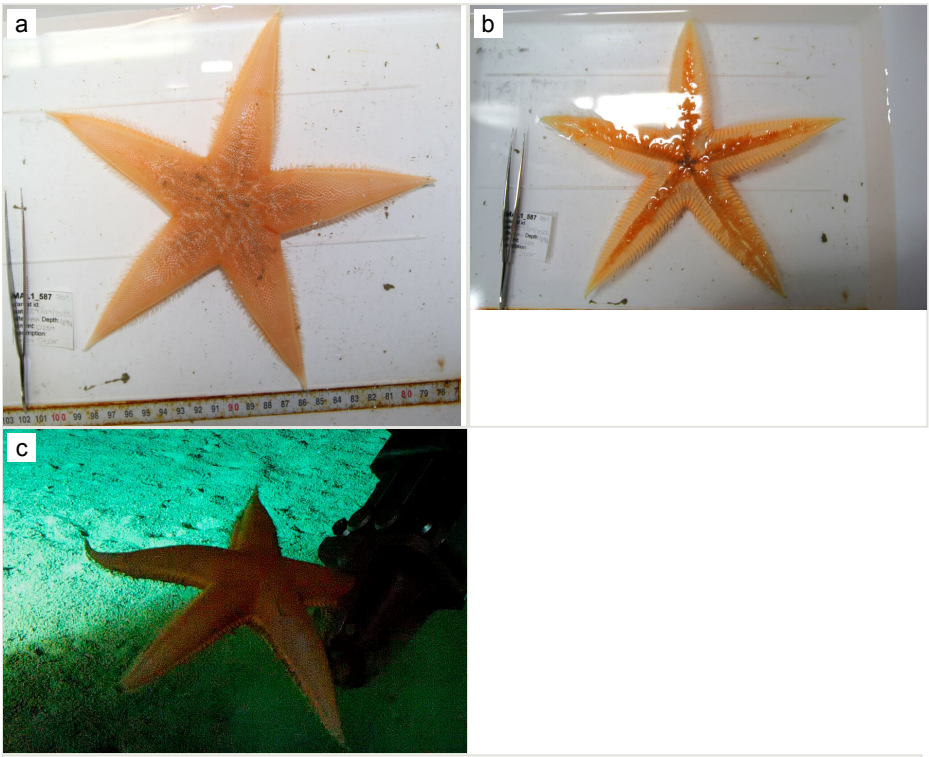

Figure 239.

Persephonaster sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 494 m, collected specimen MAL1_587; doi
b: Vaavu, 494 m, collected specimen MAL1_587; doi
c: Vaavu, 494 m, in situ photo of collected specimen MAL1_587. doi

Astropectinidae gen. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Astropectinidae sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Paxillosida; family: Astropectinidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 250; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Flat with five arms with arms broader at base and evenly tapering into a slimmer blunt tip. Approximately 15 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration in tones of orange and patchy brown (Fig. 240).

Figure 240. doi

Astropectinidae gen. indet. sp. 1, Addu, 250 m.

Astropectinidae gen. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Astropectinidae sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Paxillosida; family: Astropectinidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 255; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Flat with five arms, broader at base and evenly tapering into a sharper tip. Approximately 18 cm in the longest dimension. Bright orange or orangish-yellow colouration with paxilla and spinelets in central disc. Darker colouration on the central disc with lighter tones on the marginal plates, lighter tone on radial mid-line. Marginal plates are distinct and uniform in shape and structure throughout the edge of arms and disc. Most likely *Plutonaster* or *Pseudarchaster* (Fig. 241).

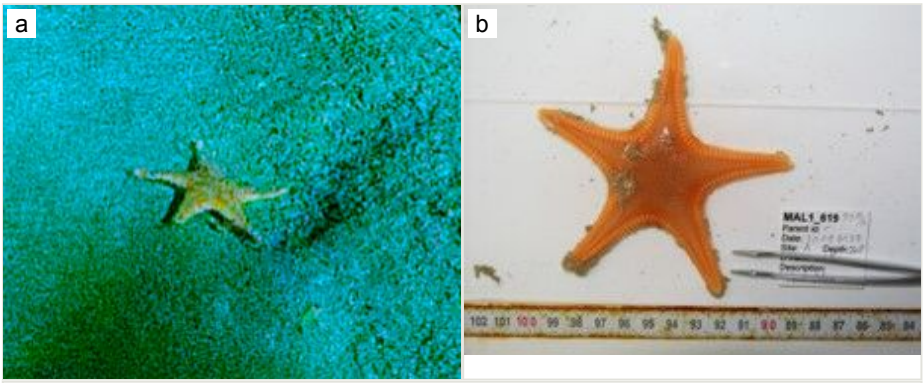

Figure 241.

Astropectinidae gen. indet. sp. 2

a: Vaavu, 248 m, *in situ* of collected specimen MAL1_619; doi
b: Vaavu, 248 m, collected specimen MAL1_619. doi

Echinaster luzonicus (Gray, 1840)

Material

a. scientificName: *Echinaster luzonicus*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Spinulosida; family: Echinasteridae; genus: *Echinaster*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Gray, 1840); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Slender tapered arms with pointy tip and inconspicuous central disc. Approximately 8 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration lighter shades of orange at the centre with gradual darkening towards the tips of the arms (Fig. 242).

Figure 242. doi

Echinaster luzonicus, Huvadhu, 10 m.

Anseropoda sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Anseropoda* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Asterinidae; genus: *Anseropoda*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Outline almost pentagonal, with concave edges. Approximately 7 cm in the longest dimension. Arms separated from central disc. Distinct raised mid-line on arms. Colouration whitish-grey (Fig. 243).

Figure 243. doi

Anseropoda sp. indet., North Male', 490 m.

Paranepanthia sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Paranepanthia* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Asterinidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 247; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Five tapered short arms. Large inflated central disc. Approximately 8 cm in the longest dimension. Patchy colouring in yellow and orange tones. Fleshy with thinner structure towards the edge of body and marginal plates which are inconspicuous (Fig. 244).

Figure 244. doi

Paranepanthia sp. indet., Vaavu, 250 m.

Tremaster mirabilis Verrill, 1880

Material

a. scientificName: *Tremaster mirabilis*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Asterinidae; genus: *Tremaster*; scientificNameAuthorship: Verrill, 1880; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 488; maximumDepthInMeters: 499; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Outline pentagonal-shaped and inflated centrally with large central disc and thin body edges. Approximately 9 cm in the longest dimension. Collected specimen (Fig. 245).

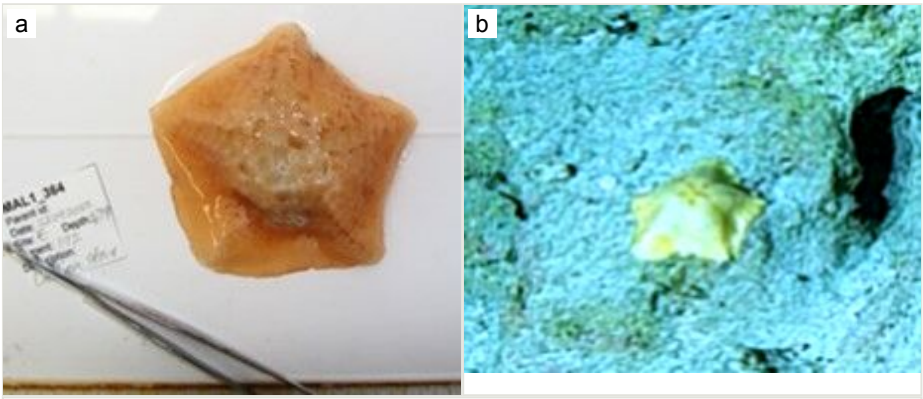

Figure 245.

Tremaster mirabilis

a: Fuvahmulah, 490 m, collected specimen MAL1_364; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 490 m. doi

Asterinidae gen. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Asterinidae sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Asterinidae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 251; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Surface smooth with a light orange or yellow colouration. Approximately 13 cm in the longest dimension. Flat disc with five tapered arms and marinal plates not evident. Possibly *Nepanthia* or *Pseudonepanthia* (Fig. 246).

Figure 246. doi

Asterinidae gen. indet. sp., Laamu, 250 m.

Mediaster sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Mediaster* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Goniasteridae; genus: *Mediaster*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Laamu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 485; maximumDepthInMeters: 492; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Large central disc with five short arms, broader towards the centre and pointy at the tip. Shallow grooves on the central disc with the base of arms inflated. Approximately 9 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration orange. Collected specimen (Fig. 247).

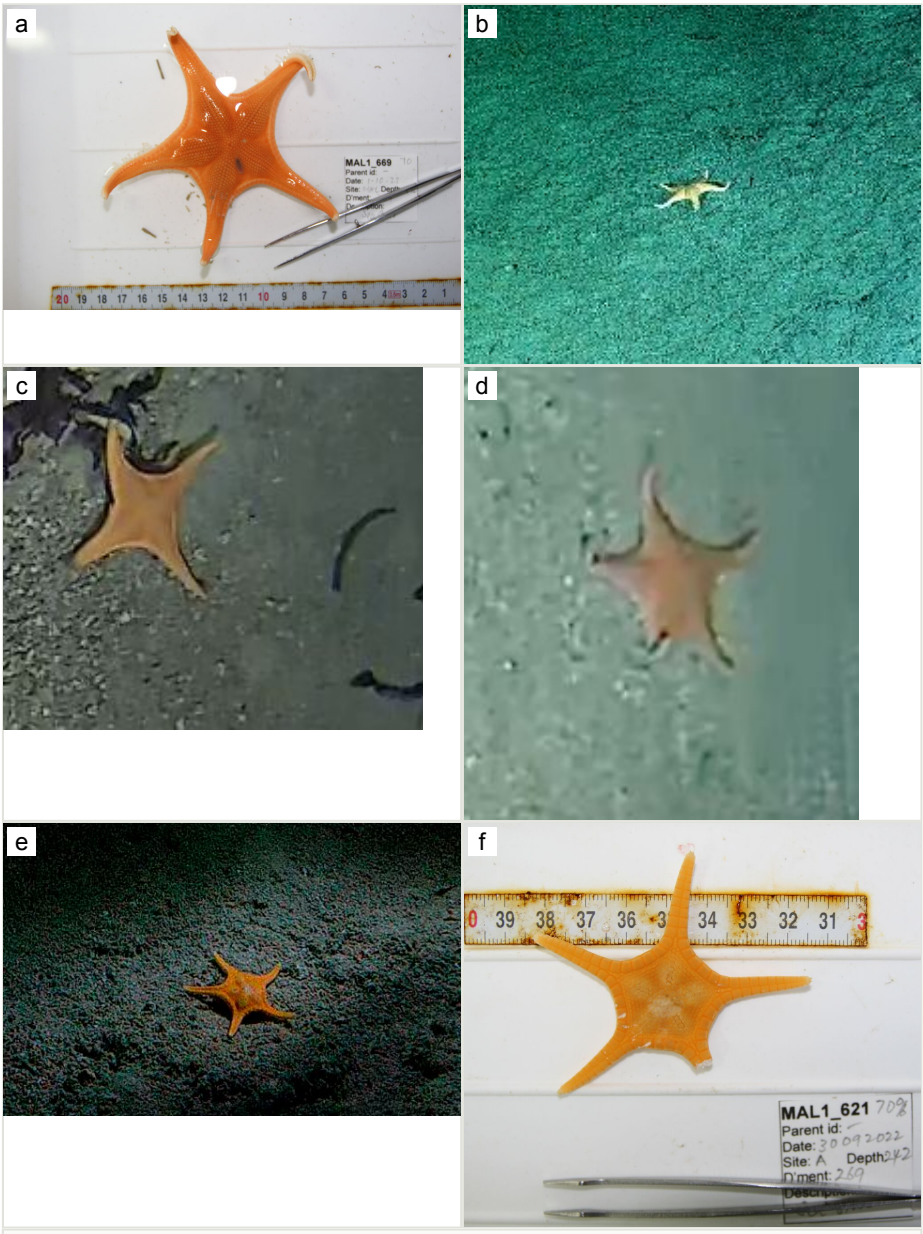

Figure 247.

Mediaster sp. indet.

a: North Male', 490 m, collected specimen MAL1_669; doi
b: North Male', 490 m, in situ photo of collected specimen MAL1_669; doi
c: Huvadhu, 490 m; doi
d: Laamu, 490 m; doi
e: Vaavu, 242 m in situ photo of collected specimen of MAL1_621; doi
f: Vaavu, 242m collected specimen MAL1_621. doi

Ceramaster sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Ceramaster* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Goniasteridae; genus: *Ceramaster*; scientificNameAuthorship: , 1899; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 253; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Five short arms with rounded tips, body almost pentagonal with concave sides, inflated central disc and heavily granulated. Conspicuous upper margins and marginal plates. Approximately 18 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration orange with slightly darker shades in central disc and lighter at tips (Fig. 248).

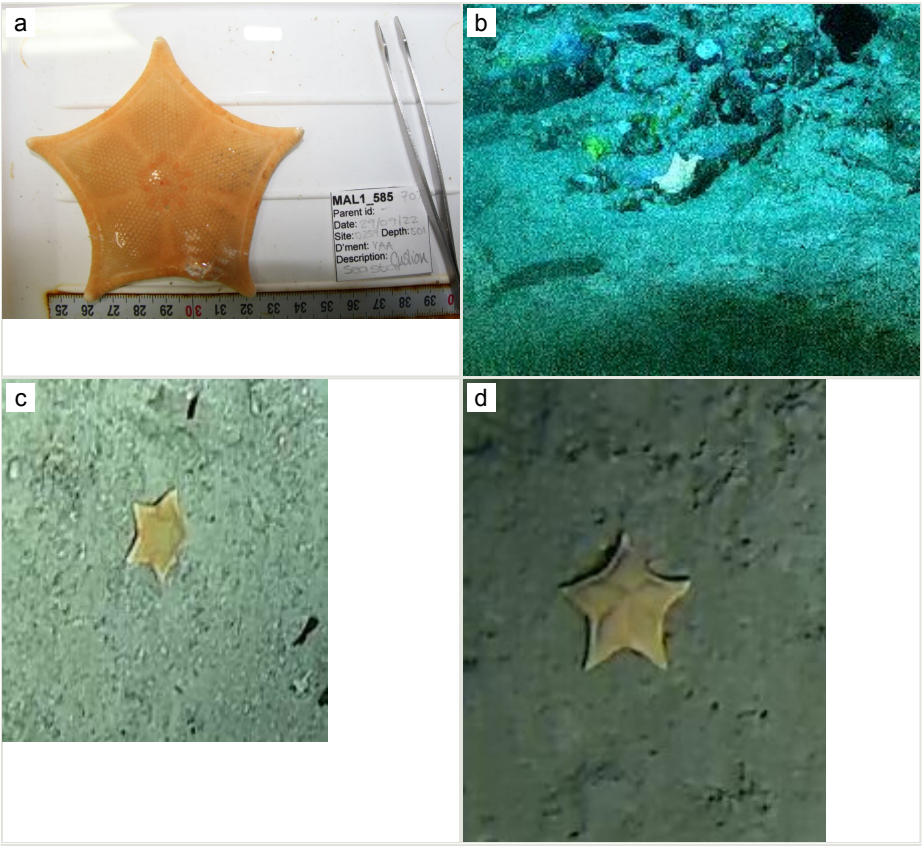

Figure 248.

Ceramaster sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 501 m, collected specimen MAL1_585; doi
b: Vaavu, 501 m, in situ photo of collected specimen MAL1_585; doi
c: Huvadhu, 250 m; doi
d: Vaavu, 250 m. doi

Sphaeriodiscus sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Sphaeriodiscus* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Goniasteridae; genus: *Sphaeriodiscus*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: TBC; minimumDepthInMeters: TBC; maximumDepthInMeters: TBC; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Short stubby arms with rounded tips. Inflated central disc with darker colouration on body and lighter colouration on arm tips (Fig. 249). Approximately 9 cm in the longest dimension. Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

Figure 249. doi

Sphaeriodiscus sp. indet., Addu, 250 m.

Nymphaster sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Nymphaster* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Goniasteridae; genus: *Nymphaster*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Large central disc with five slim arms. Approximately 16 cm in the longest dimension. Central disc inflated towards edges of arms. Inconspicuous marginal plates. Colouration darker on the central disc in peach/pink tones with gradual lightning at the edges of the body (Fig. 250).

Figure 250. doi

Nymphaster sp. indet., Vaavu, 490 m.

Goniasteridae gen. indet. sp. 4

Material

a. scientificName: Goniasteridae sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Goniasteridae; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Large central disc with short stubby arms, tapered with thick tips. Inconspicuous marginal plates. Approximately 37 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration grey tones (Fig. 251).

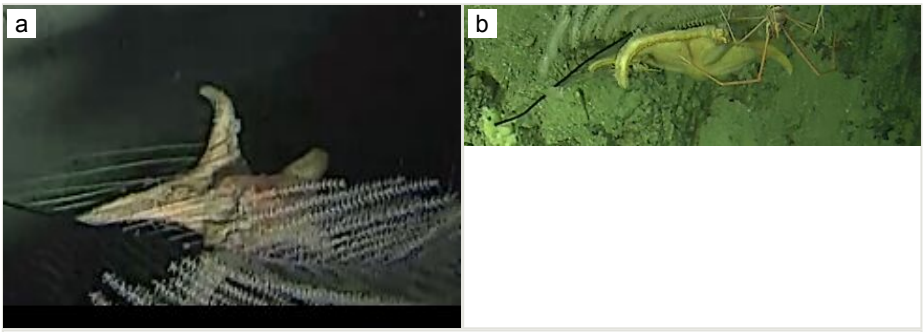

Figure 251.

Goniasteridae gen. indet. sp. 4

a: Huvadhu, 490 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 490 m. doi

Fromia monilis (Perrier, 1869)

Material

a. scientificName: *Fromia monilis*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Goniasteridae; genus: *Fromia*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Perrier, 1869); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 61; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: D1A131B2-BF70-5FDA-9246-EE36F7AD26D8

Notes

Five long tapered arms with small central disc. Marginal plates distinct and well developed with lighter cream colouration. Pattern on mid-line of arms in similar colour to the marginal plates. Approximately 7 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration of body and central disc bright to deep red tones (Fig. 252).

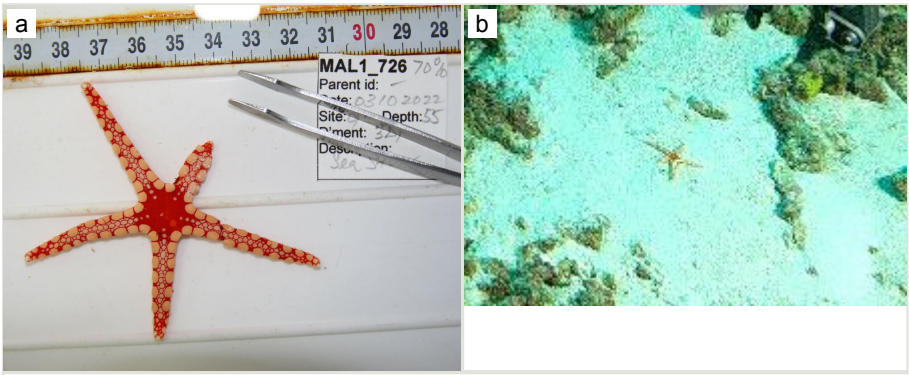

Figure 252.

Fromia monilis

a: North Male', 55 m, collected specimen MAL1_726; doi
b: North Male', 55 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_726. doi

Astrosarkus idipi Mah, 2003

Material

a. scientificName: ***Astrosarkus idipi***; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Oreasteridae; genus: ***Astrosarkus***; scientificNameAuthorship: Mah, 2003; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 83; maximumDepthInMeters: 91; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Body heavily inflated with large central disc and short arms. Arms with rounded margins and more pointy at the tips. Approximately 32 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration in red tones and peach with patchy pattern throughout the surface. This is a colour variant of the species described in more detail in Mah 2023 (Fig. 253).

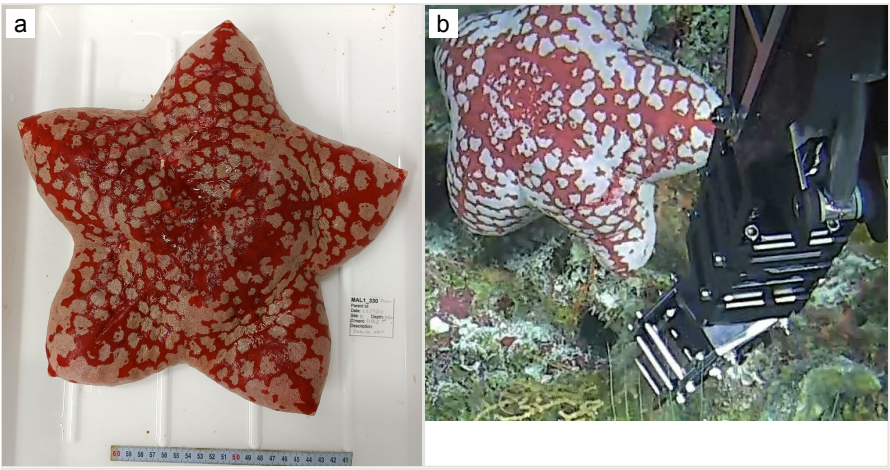

Figure 253.

Astrosarkus idipi

a: Addu, 85 m, collected specimen MAL1_334; doi
b: Addu, 85 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_334. doi

Choriaster granulatus Lütken, 1869

Material

a. scientificName: *Choriaster granulatus*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Oreasteridae; genus: *Choriaster*; scientificNameAuthorship: Lütken, 1869; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Huvadhu, Fuvahmulah, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 26; maximumDepthInMeters: 60; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Large inflated central disc with short compact and cylindrical arms. Arms rounded and cylindrical at the tips. Approximately 24 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration pink, orange and peach tones with distinctly lighter colouration tips of arms (Fig. 254).

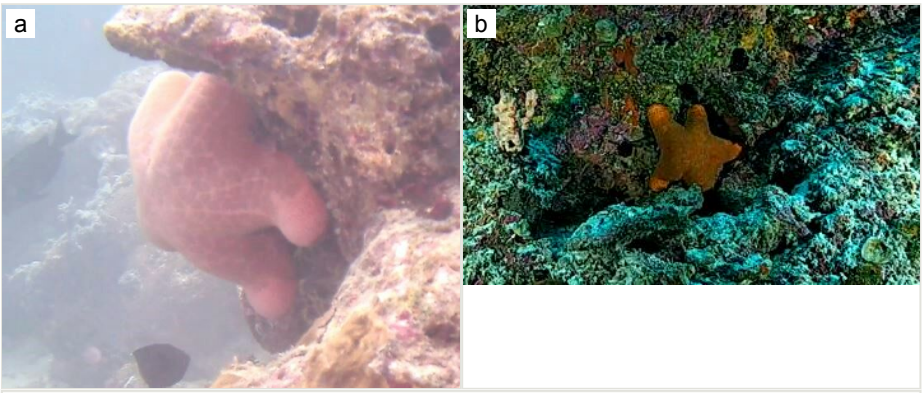

Figure 254.

Choriaster granulatus

a: Vaavu, 10 m; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, ~ 40-60 m. doi

Culcita schmideliana (Bruzelius, 1805)

Material

a. scientificName: *Culcita schmideliana*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Oreasteridae; genus: *Culcita*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Bruzelius, 1805); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 5; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Five short arms with a large central disc. Body shape pentagonal with a heavily inflated appearance. Pentagonal-shaped with minimal concaves on edge. Inflated body with compact arms and a large central disc. Spinelets evident. Approximately 20 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration appears blotchy with dark and light grey tones (Fig. 255).

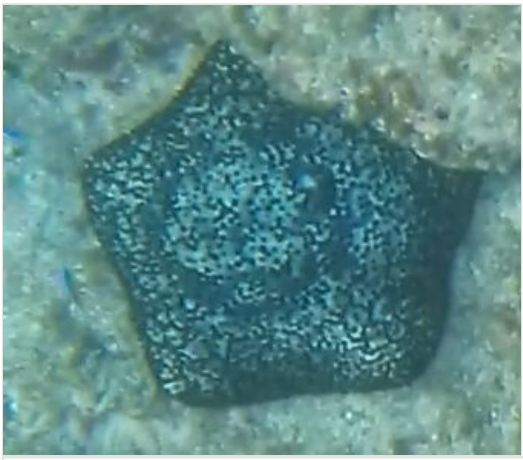

Figure 255. doi

Culcita schmideliana, Vaavu, 2 m.

Linckia sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Linckia* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; order: Valvatida; family: Ophidiasteridae; genus: *Linckia*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 62; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Long cylindrical arms with a rounded tip and small central disc. Arms tapered and rounded at the tips. Approximately 13 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration brown to grey with white/yellow patches; with granulated pattern throughout the surface. Some of the specimens observed likely belong to *Linckia multiflora* (Fig. 256).

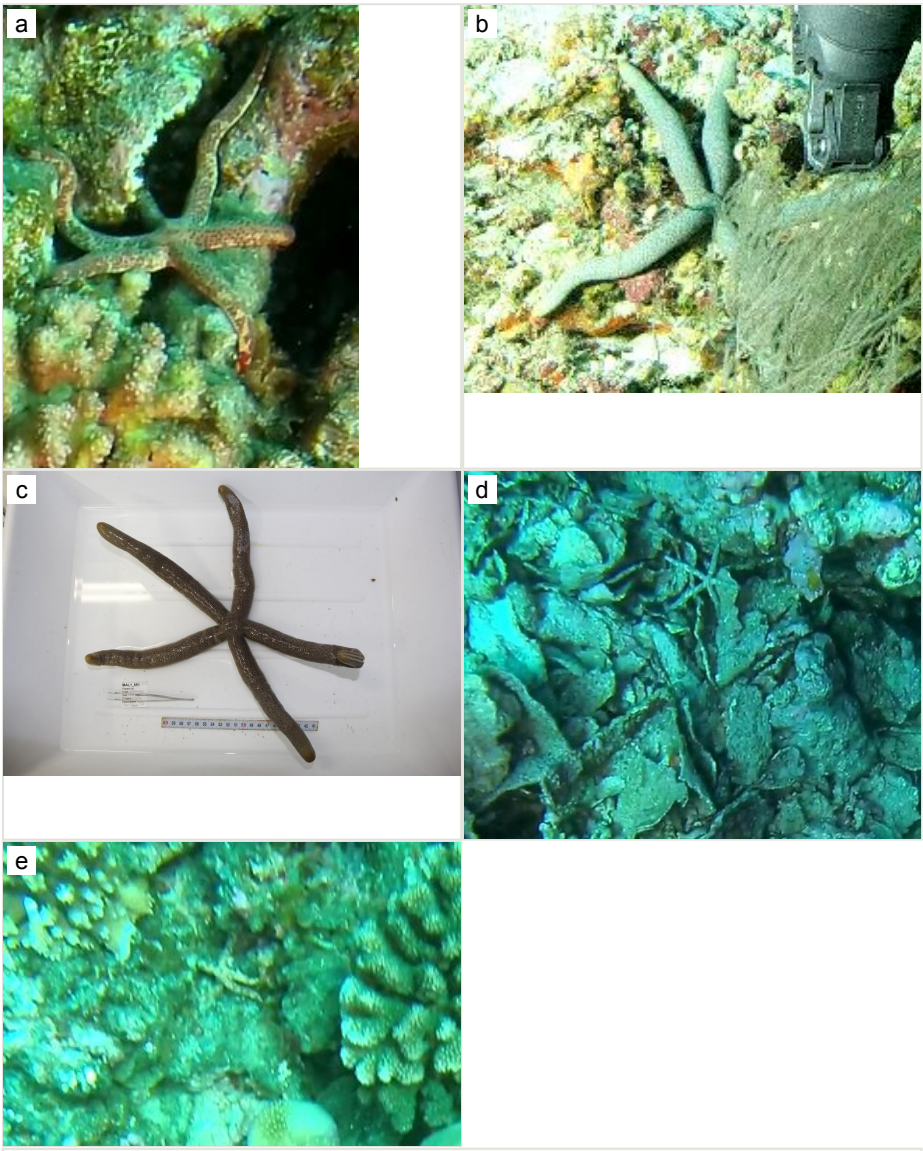

Figure 256.

Linckia sp. indet.

a: Huvadhu, 10 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 62m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_651; doi
c: Vaavu, 62m, collected specimen MAL1_651; doi
d: Addu, 10 m, likely *Linckia multiflora*; doi
e: Huvadhu, 10 m, likely *L. multiflora*. doi

Asteroidea ord. indet. sp. 5

Material

a. scientificName: Asteroidea sp. 5; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 491; maximumDepthInMeters: 491; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Large central disc with stubby arms. Colouration appears white to light grey and uniform throughout the surface and covered with fuzzy looking spines. Resembles *Pteraster* (Fig. 257).

Figure 257. doi

Asteroidea ord. indet. sp. 5, Addu, 490 m.

Asteroidea ord. indet. sp. 6

Material

a. scientificName: Asteroidea sp. 6; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Asteroidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 250; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Five tapered arms with darker colour on the central disc and dark stripes on the arms near the central disc. Approximately 15.5 cm in the longest dimension (Fig. 258).

Figure 258.

Asteroidea ord. indet. sp. 6

a: Addu, 250 m. doi

Ophiuroidea stet.

Material

a. scientificName: Ophiuroidea sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Ophiuroidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 250; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Long thin five arms with a small disc-shaped body. Approximately 24 cm in the longest dimension. Arms distinctly separate from the central disc. Central disc in dark pink and purple with arms in a contrastingly lighter colour, in cream and light orange tones (Fig. 259).

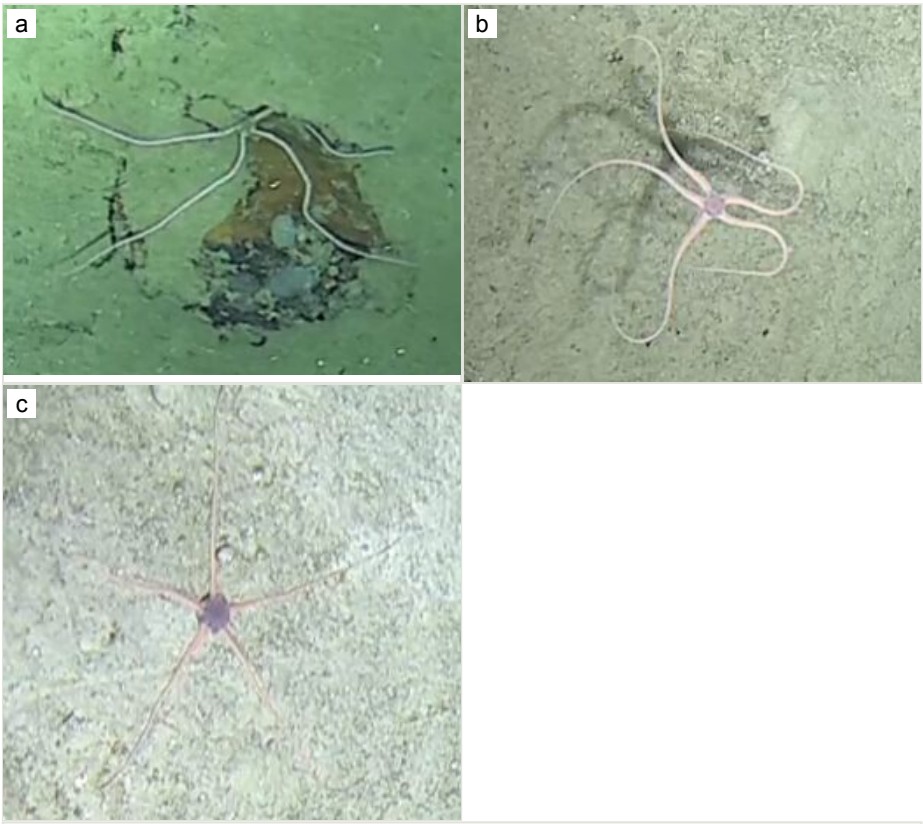

Figure 259.

Ophiuroidea stet.

a: North Male', 490 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 490 m; doi
c: Addu, 490 m. doi

Crinoidea ord. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Crinoidea sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Crinoidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 115; maximumDepthInMeters: 253; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Crinoid with several flexible, long arm-like extensions and a small cup-shaped body. The arm-like rays have lateral feathery branches. Approximately 26 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration in orange to dark brown (Fig. 260).

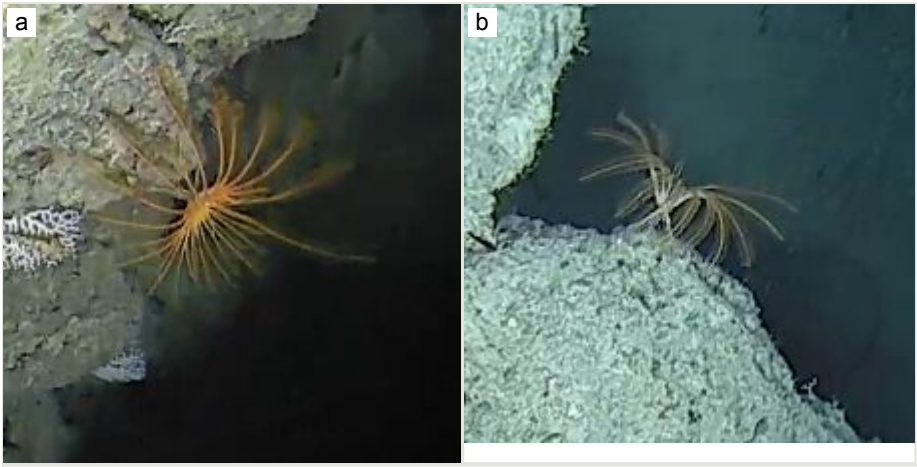

Figure 260.

Crinoidea ord. indet. sp. 1

a: Addu, 250 m; doi
b: Huvadhu, 250 m. doi

Crinoidea ord. indet. sp. 2

Nomenclature

Crinoidea ord. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Crinoidea sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Crinoidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Numerous long, super slim arm-like rays rimmed with feather-like short pinnules. Approximately 18 cm in the longest dimension. Central body is very small relative to

arm length. Colouration white or cream on arms and dark purplish tone on the central disc (Fig. 261).

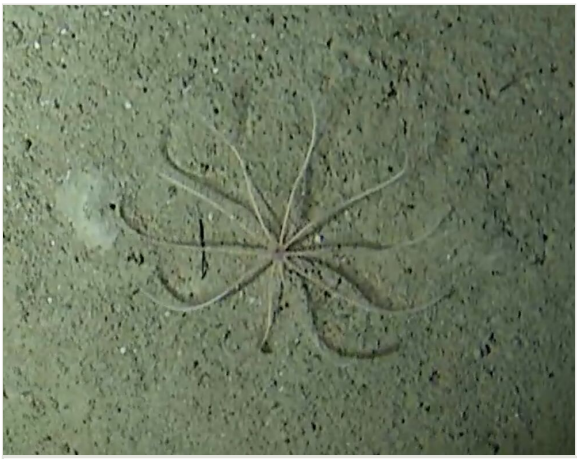

Figure 261. doi

Crinoidea ord. indet. sp. 2, Vaavu, 490 m.

Crinoidea ord. indet. sp. 3

Material

a. scientificName: Crinoidea sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Crinoidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Huvadhu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 115; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Short rays extending from the cup-like body, supported by a long upright stalk which is attached to the substratum. Approximately 30 cm in the longest dimension. Dark red and orange in colour (Fig. 262).

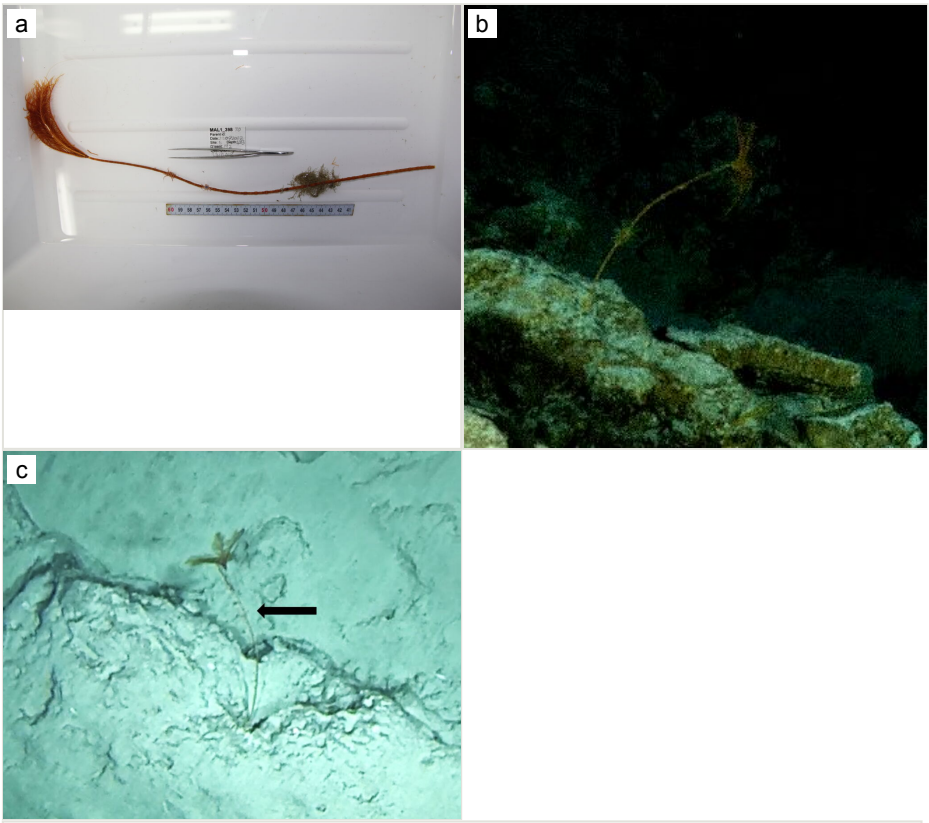

Figure 262.

Crinoidea ord. indet. sp. 3

a: Fuvahmulah, ~ 490 m, collected specimen MAL1_398; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, ~ 490 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_398; doi
c: Huvadhu, ~ 490 m. doi

Micropyga sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Micropyga* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Echinoidea; order: Micropygoida; family: Micropygidae; genus: *Micropyga*; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 246; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

A globular test with distinct pentaradial symmetry. Skeletal columns (ambulacra and interambulacra) contrasting in colour. Approximately 26 cm in the longest dimension. Fine bristle-like spines distributed throughout the surface. Pink, orange and white in colour (Fig. 263). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

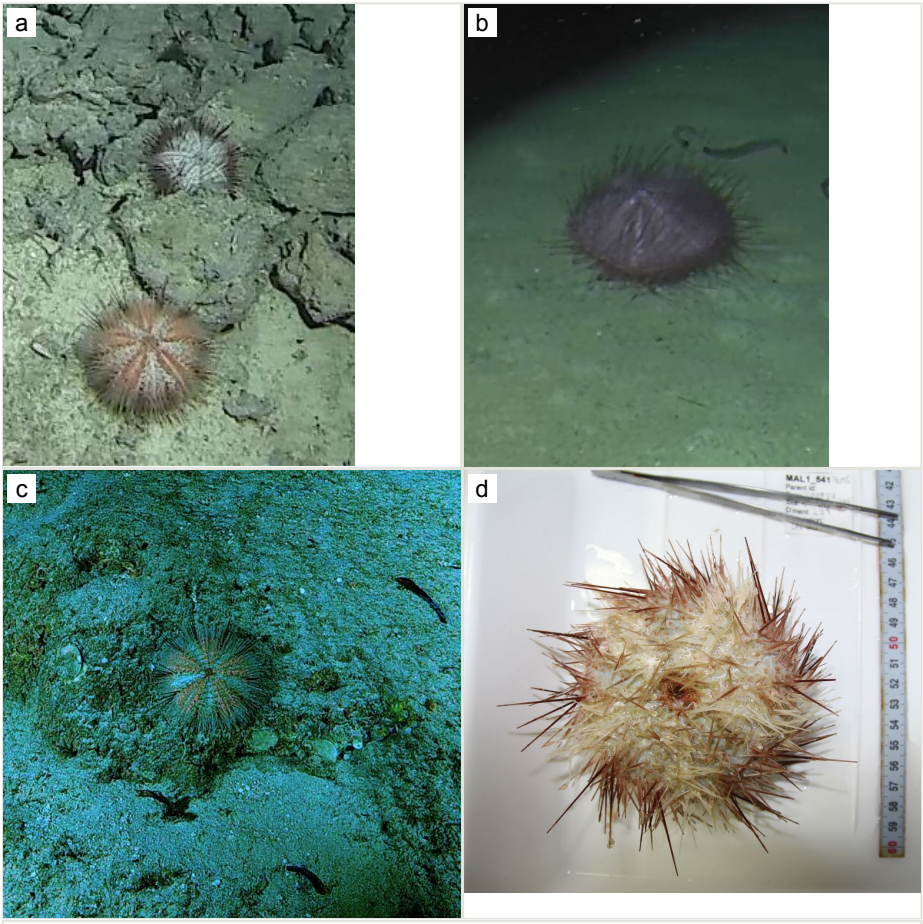

Figure 263.

Micropyga sp. indet.

a: Huvadhu, 250 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 490 m; doi
c: Laamu, 246 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_541; doi
d: Laamu, 246 m, collected specimen MAL1_541. doi

Cidaroida fam. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Cidaroida sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Echinoidea; order: Cidaroida; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 115; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Long straight spines sparsely spread and pointed at the tip. Small globular test with plating simple and radial columns, wider where there is spine attachment. Approximately 19 cm in the longest dimension. Colouration of spine similar to test, in brown, yellow or grey colour (Fig. 264). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

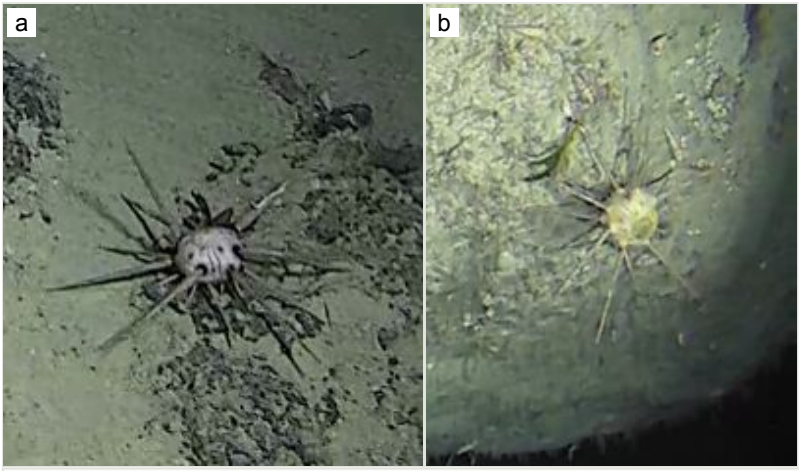

Figure 264.

Cidaroida fam. indet. sp. 1

a: Huvadhu, 490 m; doi
b: Laamu, 250 m. doi

Cidaroida fam. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Cidaroida sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Echinoidea; order: Cidaroida; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 250; maximumDepthInMeters: 253; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis;

dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Long spines in varying lengths, pointy at the tip. Well developed pentaradial small test. Approximately 15 cm in the longest dimension. Light yellow or cream colour on spines with dark red, orange or brown hues on the test (Fig. 265). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

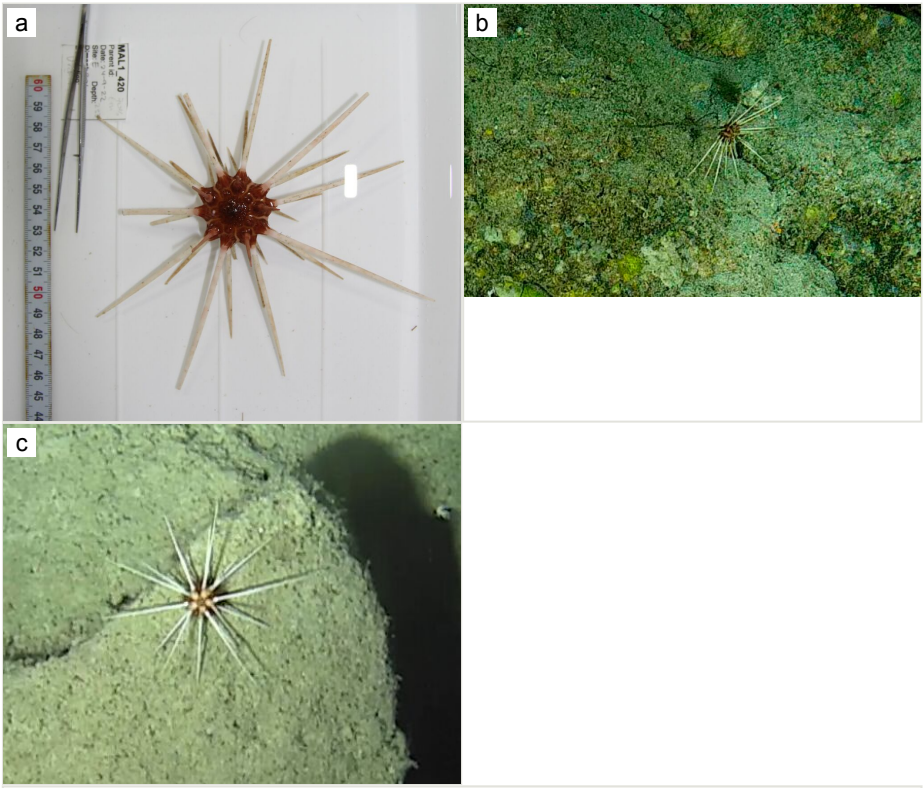

Figure 265.

Cidaroida fam. indet. sp. 2

a: Fuvahmulah, 250 m, collected specimen MAL1_420; doi
b: Fuvahmulah, 250 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_420; doi
c: Vaavu, 250 m. doi

Clypeaster sp. indet.

Material

a. scientificName: *Clypeaster* sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Echinoidea; order: Clypeasteroida; family: Clypeasteridae; genus: *Clypeaster*; waterBody:

Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 26; maximumDepthInMeters: 251; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Elongated oval-shaped test, slightly depressed on the anterior surface, with very short inconspicuous spines. Distinct petal structure on the test around the apical disc. Approximately 20 cm in the longest dimension. Appears pink and orange in colour *in situ* (Fig. 266). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

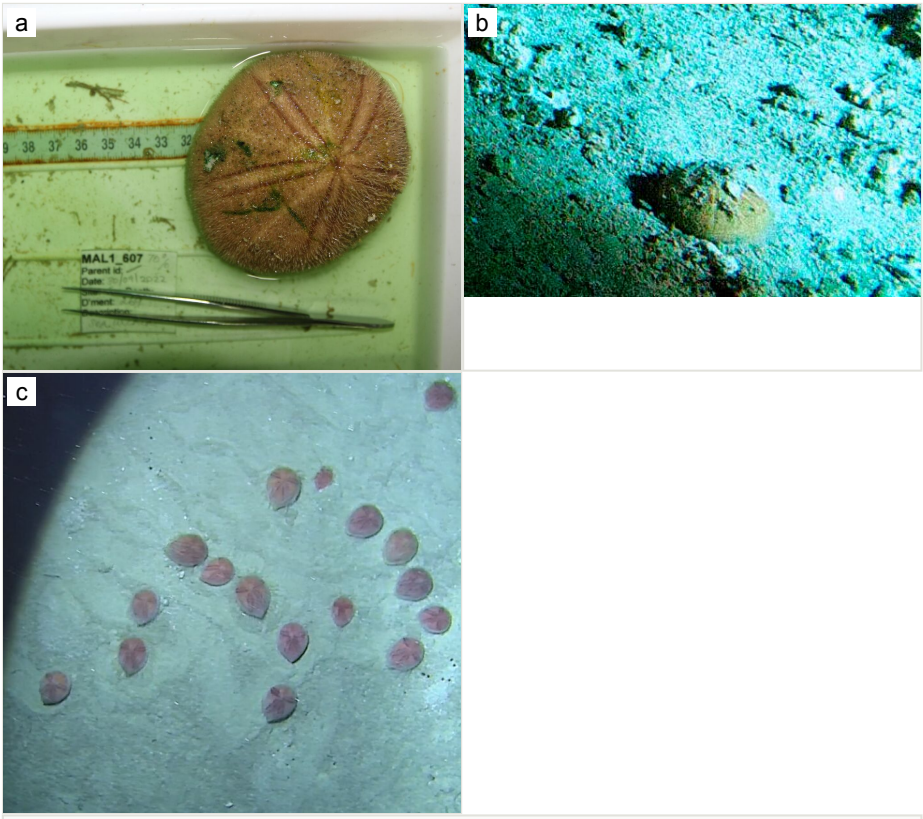

Figure 266.

Clypeaster sp. indet.

a: Vaavu, 246 m, collected specimen MAL1_607; doi
b: Vaavu, 246 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_607; doi
c: Vaavu, 250 m. doi

Echinothrix diadema (Linnaeus, 1758)

Material

a. scientificName: *Echinothrix diadema*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Echinoidea; order: Diadematoida; family: Diadematidae; genus: *Echinothrix*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Linnaeus, 1758); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 5; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Small test size compared to spine length, with numerous fine spines throughout the aboral surface. Spines and test appear dark, almost black in colour. *Diadema* spp. look similar but tend to have longer spines relative to the test (Fig. 267).

Figure 267. doi

Echinothrix diadema, Laamu, 2 m.

Echinoidea ord. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Echinoidea sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Echinoidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 248; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Small test with long pointed spines and thicker at the base. Approximately 25 cm in the longest dimension. Test covered in spines, with spines and body in similar colouration. Resembles Acanthocidaris seen in the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021); however, no sample was collected to confirm that (Fig. 268).

Figure 268.

Echinoidea ord. indet. sp. 1

a: Vaavu, 120 m. doi

Echinoidea ord. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Echinoidea sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Echinoidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 488; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Large test with super fine inconspicuous spines. Approximately 8.5 cm in the longest dimension. Light grey or whitish colouration on test (Fig. 269).

Figure 269. doi

Echinoidea ord. indet. sp. 2, Laamu, 490 m.

Spatangoida fam. indet. sp.

Material

a. scientificName: Spatangoida sp.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Echinoidea; order: Spatangoida; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 115; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis, Christopher Mah; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Oval-shaped test almost pointed at one end, with small uniformly spread spines. Skeletal columns and peristome area in contrasting colours on the test. Dark red, orange and cream, white in colour (Fig. 270). Same morphotype reported from the Seychelles (Fassbender et al. 2021).

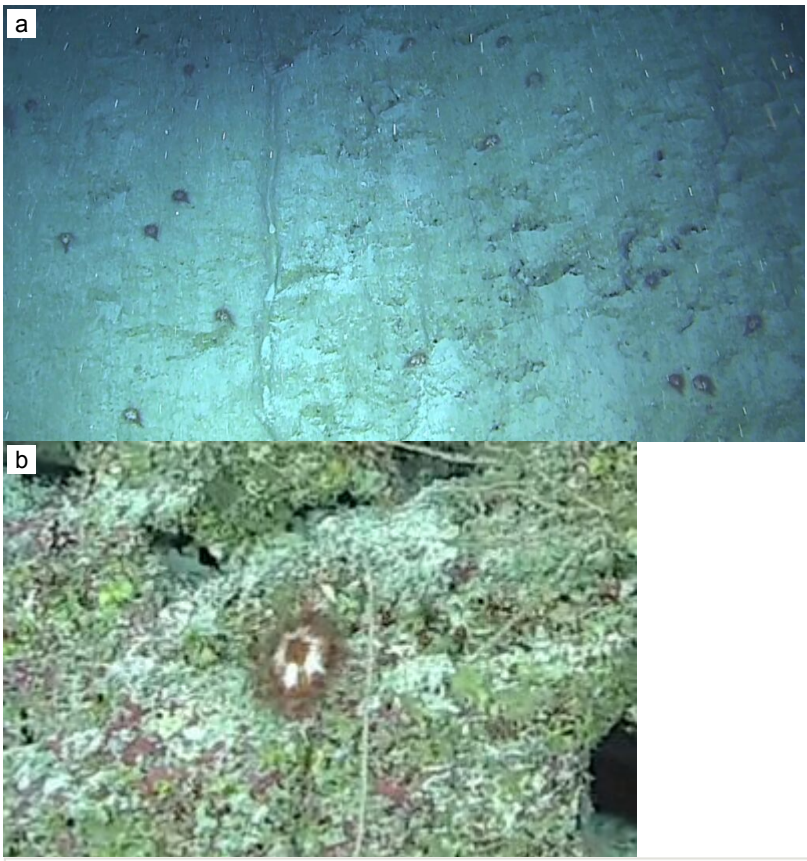

Figure 270.

Spatangoida fam. indet. sp.

a: North Male', 120 m; doi
b: North Male', 120 m. doi

Holothuria atra Jaeger, 1833

Material

a. scientificName: ***Holothuria atra***; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Holothuroidea; order: Holothuriida; family: Holothuriidae; genus: ***Holothuria***; scientificNameAuthorship: Jaeger, 1833; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Laamu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 30; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Cylindrical body with smooth surface, sometimes covered in sediment. Some individuals have a more stout body shape. Black and dark green in colour. Approximately 36 cm long (Fig. 271).

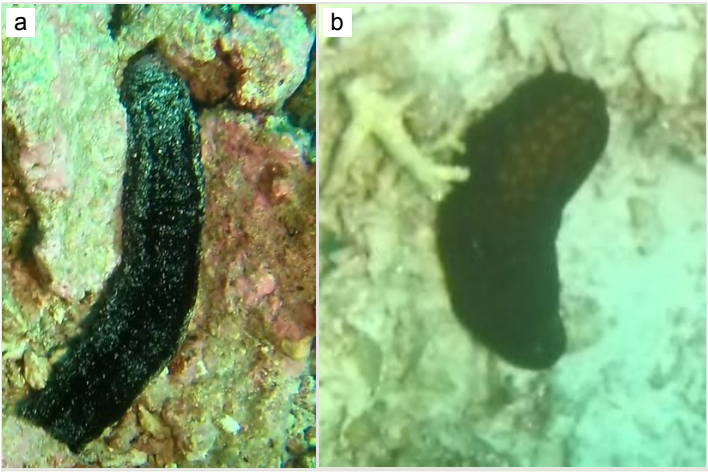

Figure 271.

Holothuria atra

a: Laamu, 10 m; doi
b: Addu, 30 m. doi

Holothuria edulis Lesson, 1830

Material

a. scientificName: *Holothuria edulis*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Holothuroidea; order: Holothuriida; family: Holothuriidae; genus: *Holothuria*; scientificNameAuthorship: Lesson, 1830; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Laamu; minimumDepthInMeters: 57; maximumDepthInMeters: 61; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Cylindrical elongated shape, surface appears smooth. Approximately 23 cm long. Pink with grey and black in colour (Fig. 272).

Figure 272. doi

Holothuria edulis, Laamu, 60 m.

Pearsonothuria graeffei (Semper, 1868)

Material

a. scientificName: *Pearsonothuria graeffei*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Holothuroidea; order: Holothuriida; family: Holothuriidae; genus: *Pearsonothuria*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Semper, 1868); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation; occurrenceID: 659AFA28-F272-52E1-89A6-A4707F2258F4

Notes

Elongated cylindrical body with bumpy papillae present throughout the surface. Approximately 31 cm long. Feeding tentacles extended from the body. Light brown to cream in colour with dark brown patches and black markings on the body (Fig. 273).

Figure 273. doi

Pearsonothuria graeffei, North Male', ~ 10 m.

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 3

Material

a. scientificName: Holothuroidea sp. 3; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Holothuroidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu, Huvadhu; minimumDepthInMeters: 247; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Cylindrical slim body, with a smooth surface. Approximately 38 cm long. Dark purple or pinkish hues in colour (Fig. 274).

Figure 274. doi

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 3, Huvadhu, 490 m.

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 4

Material

a. scientificName: Holothuroidea sp. 4; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Holothuroidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 233; maximumDepthInMeters: 490; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Elongated cylindrical body with evident papillae. Approximately 15 cm long. Cream or blue in colour with darker marking throughout the surface (Fig. 275).

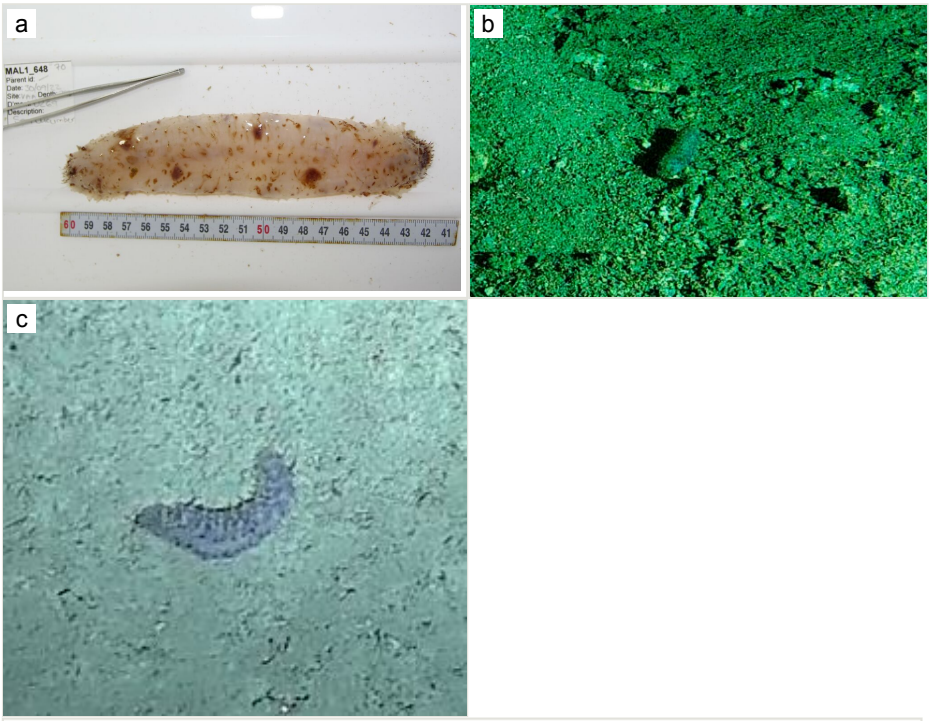

Figure 275.

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 4

a: Vaavu, 233 m, collected specimen MAL1_648; doi
b: Vaavu, 233 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_648; doi
c: North Male', 250 m. doi

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 5

Material

a. scientificName: Holothuroidea sp. 5; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Holothuroidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 496; maximumDepthInMeters: 496; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Elongated slender body with a square cross-section. Numerous large, warty papillae present covering the surface. Dark red or brown colouration. Resembles *Stichopus* recorded in Seychelles. Approximately 10 cm long, although collected specimen was ~ 20 cm (Fassbender et al. 2021), (Fig. 276).

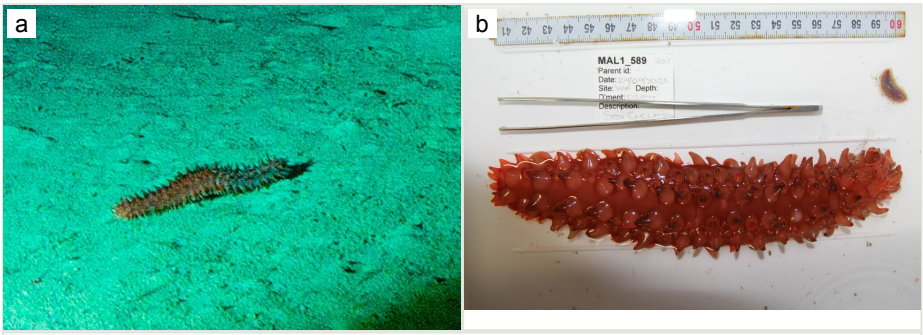

Figure 276.

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 5

a: Vaavu, 496 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_589; doi
b: Vaavu, 496 m, collected specimen MAL1_589. doi

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 6

Material

a. scientificName: Holothuroidea sp. 6; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Holothuroidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 250; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Elongated cylindrical body. Approximately 29 cm long. Translucent looking body in peach and light orangish colouration with dark markings and numerous long, thick papillae present (Fig. 277).

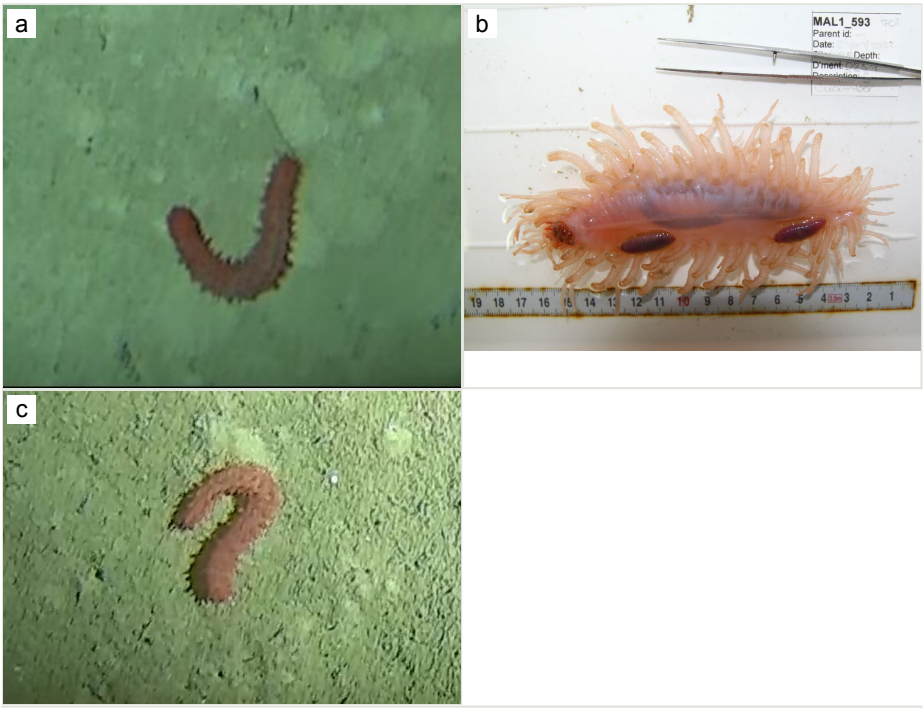

Figure 277.

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 6

a: North Male', 250 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 481 m, collected specimen MAL1_593; doi
c: Vaavu, 490 m. doi

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 7

Material

a. scientificName: Holothuroidea sp. 7; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Holothuroidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male'; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Cylindrical-shaped body with numerous fine papillae present. Approximately 7 cm long. Light to dark brown in colour (Fig. 278).

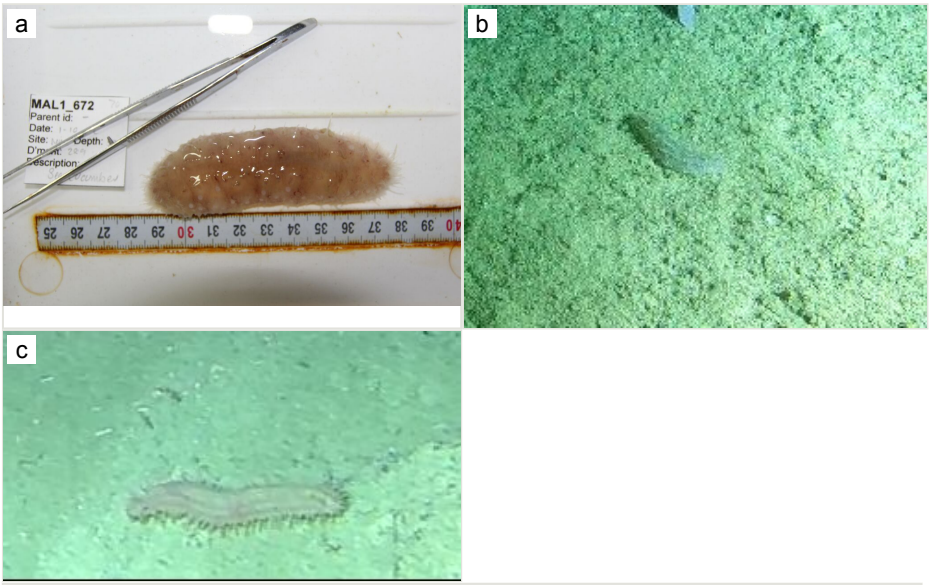

Figure 278.

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 7

a: North Male', collected specimen 490 m, MAL1_672; doi
b: North Male', 490 m *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_672; doi
c: North Male', 490 m. doi

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 8

Material

a. scientificName: Holothuroidea sp. 8; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Holothuroidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Elongated slim body shape. Distinct knobby papillae present throughout the surface. Approximately 24 cm long. Light pink and whitish-purple in colour (Fig. 279).

Figure 279. doi

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 8, Vaavu, 490 m.

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 9

Material

a. scientificName: Holothuroidea sp. 9; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Echinodermata; class: Holothuroidea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 489; maximumDepthInMeters: 492; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Cylindrical body shape. Thick coating of sediment covering surface (Fig. 280).

Figure 280. doi

Holothuroidea ord. indet. sp. 9, Fuvahmulah, 490 m.

Didemnum molle (Herdman, 1886)

Material

a. scientificName: *Didemnum molle*; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Chordata-Tunicata; class: Ascidiacea; order: Aplousobranchia; family: Didemnidae; genus: *Didemnum*; scientificNameAuthorship: (Herdman, 1886); waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Vaavu; minimumDepthInMeters: 2; maximumDepthInMeters: 489; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Forms urn-shaped structures with linked zooids that are anchored to the substratum. Approximately 14 cm in the longest dimension. Contains cyanobacteria in its tissue. Similar to *Haliclona* sp. (Fig. 281).

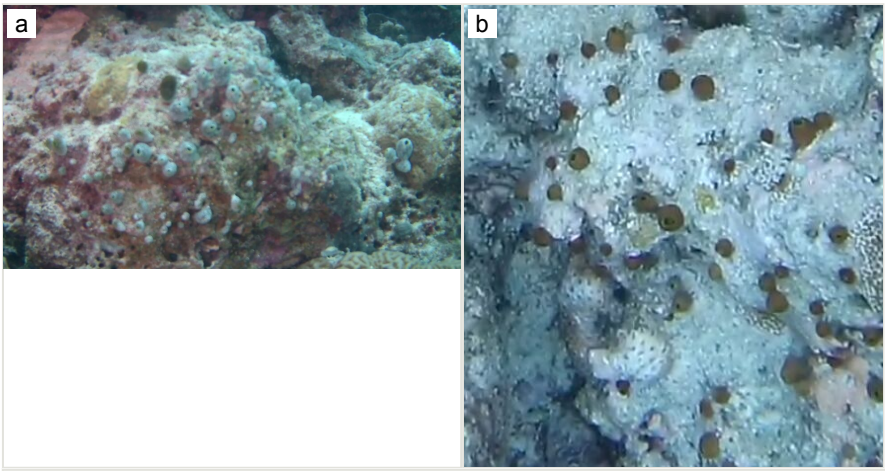

Figure 281.

Didemnum molle

a: Vaavu, 10 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 2 m. doi

Ascidiacea ord. indet. sp. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Ascidiacea sp. 1; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Chordata-Tunicata; class: Ascidiacea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Fuvahmulah; minimumDepthInMeters: 120; maximumDepthInMeters: 121; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Bushy-looking ascidian with several zooids clumped and attached together. Yellow in colour (Fig. 282).

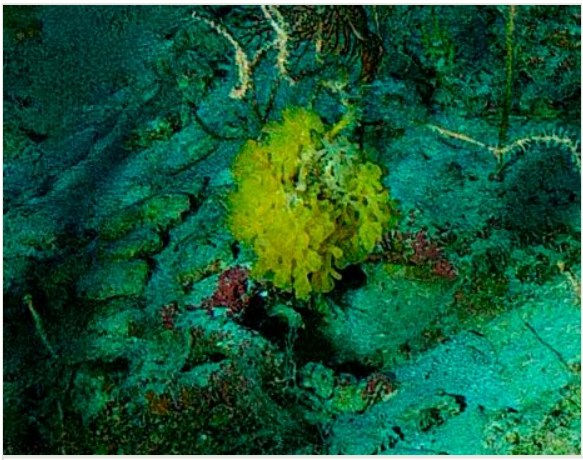

Figure 282. doi

Ascidiacea ord. indet. sp. 1, Fuvahmulah, 120 m.

Ascidiacea ord. indet. sp. 2

Material

a. scientificName: Ascidiacea sp. 2; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Chordata-Tunicata; class: Ascidiacea; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 10; maximumDepthInMeters: 10; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Ascidian with zooids spread out forming a thick mat of clumps of zooids. Dark green and brown in colour (Fig. 283).

Figure 283. doi

Ascidiacea ord. indet. sp. 2, Addu, 10 m.

Unknown sp. indet. 1

Material

a. scientificName: Unknown sp. indet. 1; waterBody: Indian Ocean; country: Maldives; locality: North Male', Vaavu, Laamu, Huvadhu, Addu; minimumDepthInMeters: 53; maximumDepthInMeters: 124; locationRemarks: Nekton Maldives Mission; samplingProtocol: Submersible OR Remotely Operated Vehicle OR Snorkel; identifiedBy: Farah Amjad, Paris Stefanoudis; dateIdentified: 2022, 2023; identificationRemarks: Identified only from imagery; basisOfRecord: Human observation

Notes

Colonies branching, typically growing in one plane. Approximately ~ 35 cm in height. Yellow and light brown to brownish-green in colour. It resembles some octocoral, hydrozoan or even sponge groups; however, closer examination of collected specimens removed the possibility of any of those (Fig. 284).

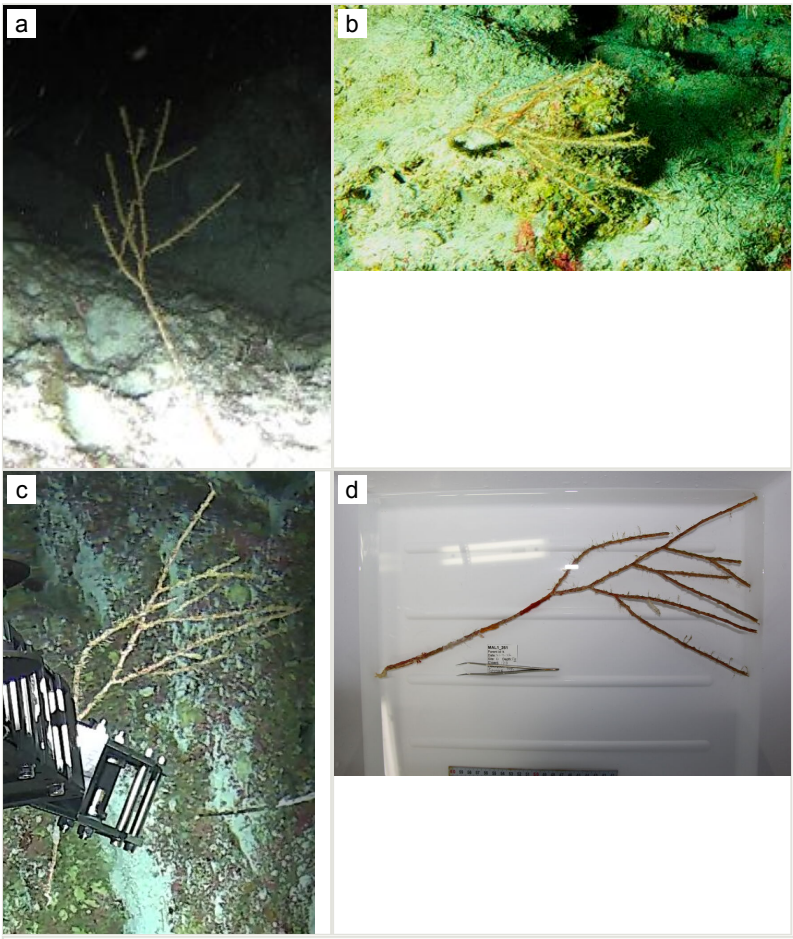

Figure 284.

Unknown sp. indet. 1

a: Huvadhu, 120 m; doi
b: Vaavu, 120 m; doi
c: Addu, 120 m, *in situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_261; doi
d: Addu, 120 m, *ex situ* photo of collected specimen MAL1_261. doi

Acknowledgements

This was a multidisciplinary expedition that could not have taken place without an extensive coalition of partners with diverse skills and backgrounds. It is their dedication that resulted in the ultimate success of the expedition. While we have attempted to name the many people and organisations who have facilitated this complex expedition, it is just not possible to acknowledge all.

We would like to thank our mission partners Omega for their unwavering faith and support in the Nekton Maldives Mission. We would also like to thank our strategic partners, UK FCDO, Associated Press, Teledyne Marine, Sonardyne, SAAB Seaeye, Kensington Tours, Helly Hansen and South African Institute of Aquatic Biology (SAIAB), for critical contributions and support.

In addition, we would like to thank our collaborating partners for their support with the mission including Commonwealth Blue Charter, University of Oxford, Paralenz (Subsea Imaging), REV Ocean (Submersible), Priavo (Safety & Maritime Security), Encounter EDU (Submarine STEM), Great Campaign, EYOS (Expedition logistics), Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMarEST) and Alfametal (specialist Engineering).

Many thanks goes to partners in Maldives, who gave up their time and shared their knowledge to ensure a successful expedition, including: Maldives Marine Research Institute, Maldives (MMRI), government agencies that facilitated logistics and necessary clearances, Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) Atoll and Island Councils, diver and fisher communities, marine NGOs of the islands neighbouring the survey sites, Blue Marine Foundation, UK (BMF), Maldives Resilient Reefs, Maldives (MRR), and the Small Island Research Group, Maldives (SIRG).

We would also like to thank our international scientific partners including Ministry of Earth Sciences, India (MES), University of Aberdeen, UK (UoA), University of Galway, Ireland (UoG), Boston University, (BU), University of Oxford (UoO), Small Island Research Group, Maldives (SIRG), Nelson Mandela University, South Africa (NMU) and South African Institute of Aquatic Biology (SAIAB).

We also thank Kaveh Samimi-Namin (Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Netherlands) for aiding with octocoral identifications and Denise Swanborn (Nekton, UK) for producing Figure 1.

Finally, thank you to all those individuals who helped to make this possible, including all the Expedition participants, those involved in the Nekton office team (Lisa Hynes, Alex Murphy), the Nekton Expedition Committee (Rob McCallum, Callum Roberts, Emily Penn and Paul Crowther) and Nekton trustees (Juliet Burnet, Rupert Grey (Chair), Paul Jardine, Will Goodlad, Vanessa Rice and Angelique Pouponneau) without whose support this expedition would have not been possible.

This is Nekton Contribution No 38.

Author contributions

LCW, PVS, MA and SN designed fieldwork data collection and, together with FA, HA and NRS, collected the video and biological specimens in the field. FA and PVS annotated the collected footage and placed them into an initial set of morphotypes. Further taxonomic identification was conducted in collaboration with EG (Antipatharia), CM (Asteroidea), HA and MSA (Scleractinia) and TS (Porifera). FA wrote the main manuscript text with

assistance from PVS and NDV. FA prepared all the morphotype figures. All authors reviewed and commented on the manuscript and gave final approval for publication.

References

- Ahusan M, Rico-Seijo N, Amjad F, Gress E, Naeem S, Samaai T, Samimi-Namin K, Woodall L, Stefanoudis PV (2023) Exploring the biodiversity of shallow, mesophotic and deep-sea communities in Maldives. Research Ideas and Outcomes 9 (e114370). https://doi.org/10.3897/rio.9.e114370
- Diaz C, Foster NL, Howell KL (2023a) Shallow and mesophotic benthos reference image database for the Chagos Archipelago, Central Indian Ocean. Zenodo. URL: https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.7948516
- Diaz C, Foster N, Attrill M, Bolton A, Ganderton P, Howell K, Robinson E, Hosegood P (2023b) Mesophotic coral bleaching associated with changes in thermocline depth. Nature Communications 14 (1). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-42279-2
- Fassbender N, Stefanoudis P, Filander Z, Gendron G, Mah C, Mattio L, Mortimer J, Moura C, Samaai T, Samimi-Namin K, Wagner D, Walton R, Woodall L (2021) Reef benthos of Seychelles - A field guide. Biodiversity Data Journal 9 https://doi.org/10.3897/bdj.9.e65970
- Holstein DM, Fletcher P, Groves SH, Smith TB (2019) Ecosystem services of mesophotic coral ecosystems and a call for better accounting. Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems 12: 943-956. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-92735-0_49
- Horton T, Marsh L, Bett BJ, Gates AR, Jones DO, Benoist N, Pfeifer S, Simon-Lledó E, Durden JM, Vandepitte L, Appeltans W (2021) Recommendations for the standardisation of open taxonomic nomenclature for image-based identifications. Frontiers in Marine Science 8: 62. https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.620702
- Howell KL, Davies JS, Allcock AL, Braga-Henriques A, Buhl-Mortensen P, Carreiro-Silva M, Dominguez-Carrió C, Durden JM, Foster NL, Game CA, Hitchin B, Horton T, Hosking B, Jones DO, Mah C, Laguionie Marchais C, Menot L, Morato T, Pearman TR, Piechaud N, Ross RE, Ruhl HA, Saeedi H, Stefanoudis PV, Taranto GH, Thompson MB, Taylor JR, Tyler P, Vad J, Victorero L, Vieira RP, Woodall LC, Xavier JR, Wagner D (2019) A framework for the development of a global standardised marine taxon reference image database (SMarTaR-ID) to support image-based analyses. PLOS One 14 (12): e0218904. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0218904
- MEE (2017) State of the Environment 2016. Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology Republic of Maldives. URL: https://www.environment.gov.mv/v2/wp-content/files/publications/20170202-pub-soe-2016.pdf
- Pinheiro HT, MacDonald C, Santos RG, Ali R, Bobat A, Cresswell BJ, Francini-Filho R, Freitas R, Galbraith GF, Musembi P, Phelps TA, Quimbayo JP, L. A, Quiros TE, Shepherd B, Stefanoudis PV, Talma S, Teixeira JB, Woodall LC, Rocha LA (2023) Plastic pollution on the world's coral reefs. Nature 619 (7969): 311-316. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06113-5
- Saleem M, Islam F (2008) Management of the aquarium fishery in the Republic of the Maldives. 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, Ft Lauderdale, Florida. 7-11 pp.
- Sattar SA, Najeeb A, Afzal MS, Islam F, Wood E (2011) Review of the Maldivian grouper fishery and export industry. Marine Research Center. pp 36. URL: http://

saruna.mnu.edu.mv/jspui/bitstream/123456789/5583/1/Review-of-the-Maldivian-Grouper-Fishery-and-Export-Industry%20September%202011.pdf

- Soares MdO, Tavares TCL, Carneiro PBdM (2018) Mesophotic ecosystems: Distribution, impacts and conservation in the South Atlantic. Diversity and Distributions 25 (2): 255-268. https://doi.org/10.1111/ddi.12846
- Spalding M, Ravilious C, Green EP (2001) World atlas of coral reefs. University of California Press, Berkeley, USA, 130 pp.
- Stefanoudis PV, Fassbender N, Samimi-Namin K, Adam PA, Ebrahim A, Harlay J, Koester A, Samoilys M, Sims H, Swanborn D, Talma S (2023) Trait-based approaches reveal that deep reef ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean are functionally distinct. Science of the Total Environment 872: 16211. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.162111