



Supplemental material 1: Results of the three transect types from four reefs around Lizard Island on the Northern Great Barrier Reef. **A.** represents Mermaid Cove and **B.** South-Palfrey, two *Acropora* dominated reefs. **C.** represents Clam Gardens and **D.** Trawler Beach, two *Porites* dominated reefs. The left hand portion of the graphs shows the algae recorded using the three methods (light grey = epilithic algal matrix, dark grey = crustose coralline algae). The right hand portion of the graphs shows the results for corals (mid-grey = massive and encrusting colonies, black = canopy-forming species). Notice the consistent decreases in canopy forming corals and subsequent algal increases (especially EAMs) with the benthic point intercept transect.