

SCLERACTINIAN CORALS OF PEACOCK ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

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ABSTRACT

Peacock (Pocock) Island, wildlife sanctuary, islocated on the northern side of North Andaman. A total of 81 species of hard corals belong to 30 genera and 10 families are reported during the year 2012-13. It shares approximately 15% of total scleractinian corals of Andaman & Nicobar Islands whereas around 10% of global context. Among the reported corals, 5 species are Vulnerable (VU) as categorized by IUCN. The present paper dealt with the species components of scleractinian corals with their global and regional status.

Key words: Scleractinian corals, vulnerable, Peacock Island, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

INTRODUCTION

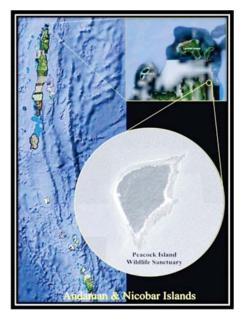
Andaman & Nicobar Islands are the well known biological hot spots with a maximum number of protectedarea in comparison with other States and Union Territories of India. Total number of 106 protected areas including 96 Sanctuaries, 7 National Parks, 2 Marine National Parks and 1 Biosphere Reserve are the representative of well diversified biodiversity of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Venkataramanet al., 2003). North Andaman region represents a total of 40 sanctuaries among those total numbers in both the Andaman Sea at eastern side and Bay of Bengal at western side (Venkataramanet al., 2012). Peacock (Pocock)Island, spread across 0.62 sq. km., one of the islands of North Andaman group of islands more precisely Landfall group of islands, declared as the wildlife sanctuary under MoEF, GoI, Notification No. 113-86/CF/WL/50-Vol.I dated 16.02.1987to conserve the terrestrial biodiversity (Kumar, 1997; A and N Administration, 1987). The marine life including coral reefs shares the diversified Indo-West Pacific faunal region (Hoeksemaand Dai, 1982). Coral are most important to

the progressive world due to its high productivity as well as nutrient recycling capability (Mann, 1982). The existence of coral reef biodiversity is the ecological tutor for the maintenance of entire biogenic habitat of marine world through the support of a great deal of associated faunal communities (Smith, 1978). The present paper describes the total scleractinian species composition of Peacock Island with its status analysis.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted at the Peacock Island (Coordinates: Lat. 13°33.777'N & Long. 93°03.130'E) during 2012-2013 to explore the scleractinian coral at the continental shelf region (Map 1) by employing SCUBA diving and snorkeling. Digitization of individual species was made by underwater camera (Sony-Cyber Shot, Model-T900, marine pack, 12.1 megapixels) to record the scleractinian corals. The recorded species, individual photographs were identified in conjunction with Veron and Pichon (1976, 1979, 1982), Veron*et al.* (1977) Veron and Wallace (1984), Veron (2000) and Wallace (1999).





Map 1: Peacock Island, Andaman & Nicobar

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total number of 81 species of *scleractinian* corals belong to 30 genera and 10 families were identified from the Peacock Island Wildlife Sanctuary during the present study (Table 1 and Fig 1). A maximum number of 30 species belong to the family Faviidae family the minimum of only one species was reported under family Astrocoeniidae (Fig 2). The IUCN status analysis revealed

that, among the 81 species, 78 species were evaluated under the IUCN category and criteria while the 3 species were under Not Evaluated (NE) category. Among the Evaluated scleractinians,5 species are Vulnerable (VU), 31 species are Neat Threatened (NT), 39 species are Least Concern (LC) and 3 species are in Data Deficient (DD). It was also observed that, 70 species are common and 11 species are rare on the regional occurrence analysis of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Table 1: List Scleractinian corals of Peacock Island Wildlife Sanctuary

Sl. No.	Species Name	IUCN 2012 Status	Occurrence in A & N Islands
Family	ACROPORIDAE (Verrill, 1902)		
Genus	Acropora (Oken, 1815)		
1.	Acroporacuneata (Dana, 1846)	Not Evaluated	Common
2.	Acroporaformosa (Dana, 1846)	Near Threatened	Common
3.	Acroporahumilis (Dana, 1846)	Near Threatened	Common
4.	Acroporamonticulosa (Bruggemann, 1879)	Near Threatened	Common
5.	Acroporamicrophthalma (Verrill, 1859)	Least Concern	Common
6.	Acroporanasuta (Dana, 1846)	Near Threatened	Common
7.	Acroporapalifera (Lamarck, 1816)	Not Evaluated	Common
8.	Acroporanatalensis (Riegl, 1995)	Data Deficient	Common
9.	Acroporavalenciennesi (Milne Edwards & Haime, 1860)	Least Concern	Common
10.	Acroporadigitifera (Dana, 1846)	Near Threatened	Common
11.	Acroporadivaricata (Dana, 1846)	Near Threatened	Common



12.	Acroporagemmifera (Brook, 1892)	Least Concern	Common
13.	Acroporarobusta (Dana, 1846)	Least Concern	Common
Genus	Astreoporade (Blainville,1830)	Least concern	Common
14.	Astreoporate (Blainvinc, 1850) Astreoporamyriophthalma (Lamarck, 1816)	Least Concern	Common
Genus	Montiporade Blainville, 1830	Least concern	Common
15.	Montiporacorbettensis (Veron and Wallace, 1984)	Vulnerable	Rare
16.	Montiporacio bettensis (Veron and Wanace, 1984) Montiporainformis (Bernard, 1897)	Least Concern	Common
17.	Montiporatiyormis (Bernard, 1897) Montiporagrisea (Bernard, 1897)	Least Concern	Common
18.			2209
	Montiporapeltiformis (Benard, 1897)	Near Threatened	Common
19.	Montiporatuberculosa (Lamarck, 1816)	Least Concern	Rare
20.	Montiporaverrilli (Vaughan, 1907)	Data Deficient	Rare
Family			
Genus	Coeloseris (Vaughan,1918)		
21.	Coeloserismayeri (Vaughan, 1918)	Least Concern	Common
Genus	Pachyseris (MED & H, 1849)		
22.	Pachyserisgemmae (Nemenzo, 1955)	Near Threatened	Common
Genus	Pavona (Lamarck, 1801)		
23.	Pavonavarians (Verrill, 1846)	Least Concern	Common
24.	Pavonavenosa (Ehrenberg, 1834)	Vulnerable	Common
Family	ASTROCOENIIDAE (Koby, 1890)		
Genus	Stylocoeniella (Yabe& Sugiyama, 1935)		
25.	Stylocoeniellaarmata (Ehrenberg, 1834)	Least Concern	Rare
Family	FAVIIDAE Gregory, 1900		
Genus	Barabattoia Yabe and Sugiyama, 1941		
26.	Barabattoiaamicorum (Milne Edwards & Haime, 1850)	Least Concern	Common
Genus	Cyphastrea (MED & H, 1848)		
27.	Cyphastrea japonica (Yabe and Sugiyama,1932)	Least Concern	Common
28.	Cyphastreachalcidicum (Forskal, 1775)	Least Concern	Common
Genus	Diploastrea (Matthai, 1914)		
29.	Diploastreahelipora (Lamarck, 1816)	Near Threatened	Common
Genus	Echinopora (Lamarck, 1816)		terior meditations and looking and to
30.	Echnioporapacificus (Veron, 1990)	Near Threatened	Common
Genus	Favia (Oken, 1815)		
31.	Faviamatthaii (Vaughan, 1918)	Near Threatened	Common
32.	Favia maxima (Veron and Pichon, 1977)	Near Threatened	Common
33.	Faviapallida (Dana, 1846)	Least Concern	Common
34.	Faviarotumana (Gardiner, 1899)	Least Concern	Common
35.	Faviatruncatus (Veron, 2002)	Least Concern	Common
1000 700 00000	Favites (Link, 1807)	Least Concern	Common
36.	Favites (Elik, 1807) Faviteshalicora (Ehrenberg, 1834)	Near Threatened	Common
37.	Favitesmicropentagona (Veron, 2002)	Near Threatened	Common
38.	Favitespentagona (Esper,1794)	Least Concern	Common
30.	Tuvuespeniagona (Espei,1794)	Least Concern	Common



Genus Goniastrea (MED & H., 1848)	39.	Favitesvasta (Klunzinger, 1879)	Near Threatened	Common
40. Goniastreaedwardsi (Chevalier,1971) 41. Goniastreaminuta (Veron,2000) 42. Goniastreafavulus (Dana,1846) 43. Leptoriaphrygia (Ellis &Solander, 1786) 43. Leptoriaphrygia (Ellis &Solander, 1786) 44. Leptastrea (MED & H., 1848) 44. Leptastreae (MED & H., 1848) 44. Leptastreae (MED & H., 1848) 44. Leptastreaeurpurea (Dana, 1846) 45. Leptastreaeurpurea (Dana, 1846) 46. Montastreaeure (MED & H., 1849) 47. Montastreaeure (MED & H., 1849) 48. Montastreaeure (Dana, 1846) 49. Oulophylliae (Weron, 2002) 40. Near Threatened Common 41. Montastreaeure (Dana, 1846) 41. Least Concern Common 42. Least Concern Common 43. Leptastreatrature (Dana, 1846) 44. Leptastreatrature (Dana, 1846) 45. Least Concern Common 46. Montastreaeure (MED & H., 1849) 47. Montastreaeure (MED & H., 1848) 48. Oulophylliae (Weron, 2002) 48. Montastreaeure (Dana, 1846) 49. Oulophylliaeure (Veron and Pichon, 1977) 50. Oulophylliaeure (Veron and Pichon, 1977) 50. Oulophylliaeure (Veron and Pichon, 1977) 51. Oulophylliaeure (Veron and Pichon, 1977) 52. Oulostreaeure (MED & H., 1848) 52. Oulastreaeure (MED & H., 1848) 53. Platygyrazukyuensis (Yabe & Sugiyama, 1936) 54. Platygyrazukyuensis (Yabe & Sugiyama, 1936) 55. Platygyrazukyuensis (Yabe & Sugiyama, 1936) 56. Fungiarepanda (Dana, 1846) 67. Fungiarepanda (Dana, 1846) 68. Fungia (Lamarck, 1801) 56. Fungiarepanda (Dana, 1846) 69. Fungia (Lamarck, 1801) 57. Podabacialanakensis (Veron, 2002) 58. Hydnophorarigida (Dana, 1846) 69. Hydnophorarigida (Dana, 1846) 60. Acanthastrea (MED & H., 1848) 60. Acanthastrea (MED & H., 1848) 60. Acanthastrea (MED & H., 1848) 61. Symphyllia (MED & H., 1848) 61. Symphyllia (MED & H., 1848) 62. Symphyllia (MED & H., 1848) 63. Cansi Symphyllia (MED & H., 1848) 64. Cansi Symphyllia reate (Dana, 1846) 65. Symphyllia reate (Dana, 1846) 66. Common	Genus	<u> </u>		
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Genus Gonioporade (Blainville, 1830)	Family	PORITIDAE (Grav. 1842)		
55. Comport minor (Crossiana, 1752) Real Tilleatened Common	63.	Goniopora minor (Crossland, 1952)	Near Threatened	Common



Genus	PoritesLink, 1807		
64.	Poritesattenuata (Nemenzo 1955)	Vulnerable	Common
65.	Poritescompressa (Dana, 1846)	Least Concern	Common
66.	Poritescylindrica (Dana, 1846)	Near Threatened	Common
67.	Poritesevermanni (Vaughan, 1907)	Data Deficient	Rare
68.	Poritesstephensoni (Crossland, 1952)	Near Threatened	Common
69.	Poriteslobata (Dana, 1846)	Near Threatened	Common
70.	Poritesdensa (Vaughan, 1918)	Least Concern	Common
71.	Poritesmonticulosa (Dana, 1846)	Least Concern	Common
72.	Poritesrus (Forskal,1775)	Least Concern	Common
73.	Poritessolida (Forskal, 1775)	Least Concern	Common
74.	Poritesvaughani (Crossland, 1952)	Least Concern	Common
Family	POCILLOPORIDAE (Gray, 1842)		
Genus	Pocillopora (Lamarck, 1816)		
75.	Pocilloporadamicornis (Linnaeus, 1758)	Least Concern	Common
76.	Pocilloporaeydouxi (MED & H, 1860)	Near Threatened	Common
77.	Pocilloporameandrina (Dana, 1846)	Least Concern	Common
78.	Pocilloporaverrucosa (Ellis & Solander, 1786)	Least Concern	Common
Genus	Stylophora (Schweigger, 1819)		
79.	StylophorapistillataEsper, 1797	Near Threatened	Common
Family	SIDERASTERIDAE (Vaughan & Wells, 1943)		
Genus	Psammocora (Dana, 1846)		
80.	Psammocoraobtusangula (Lamarck, 1816)	Near Threatened	Rare
81.	Psammocoradigitatais (MED & H,1851)	Near Threatened	Common

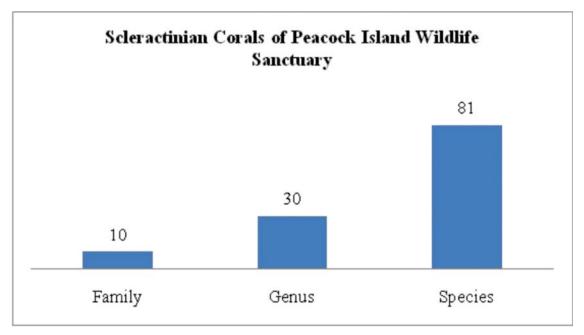


Fig 1: Diversity of scleractinian corals of Peacock Island Wildlife Sanctuary

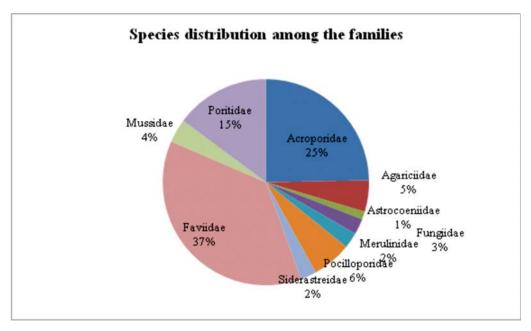


Fig 2: Species distribution among the scleractinian families

The frequency of scleractinian distribution is quite diverse throughout the world. The favorable habitat in tropical region has given conducive atmosphere for in maximum number of species. The diversifications are mostly concentrated in shallow water region of the world's ocean (Chen, 1999). The Andaman & Nicobar Islands harbors a wide variety of scleractinian corals on its continental shelf in the form of fringing type reefs within the shallow regions (Venkataramanet al., 2003). The studies on scleractinian lives and their explorations have given the scope to strengthen the database of scleractinian species from the baseline database to near about 520 species (Venkataramanet al., 2003; Venkataraman&Satynarayana, 2012; Tamalet al., 2012a). There is no such report on studies of scleractinian corals from Peacock Island Wildlife Sanctuary earlier, though the studies were made on several places of North Andaman. A report was made of scleractinian corals of Ross, Smith Island and Ariel Bay of North Andaman previously which showed the report of a maximum number of 166 species from Smith Island and the minimum of 80 species from Ross Island. The corals were reported maximum under 15 families in the Smith Island (Tamalet al., 2011). The presence of 81 species of scleractinian corals shares ~ 15% of total scleractinian corals of Andaman & Nicobar Islands whereas ~10% of 2000; the global database (Veron,

Venkataraman&Satyanayarana, 2012). A total of 90 species of faviids corals were reported from entire Andaman & Nicobar Islands till now whereas 77 species were reported from North & Middle Andaman (Tamalet al., 2012b, 2012c), of which Peacock Island shares 30 species. The status analysis of the species reveals that the 5 species of hard corals are Vulnerable (VU) category with the trend of facing threats of extinction as global status implication (IUCN, 20120). But the regional occurrence of scleractinian lives implies that the most of the corals (70 species) are common to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Even though, 4 species of corals among Vulnerable are also quantified as common according to the regional occurrence. The presence of scleractinian corals in moderate number at Peacock Island Wildlife Sanctuary describes the supportive biogenic environmental clues for the search of more scleractinian lives around this island with the extensive exploration works.

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