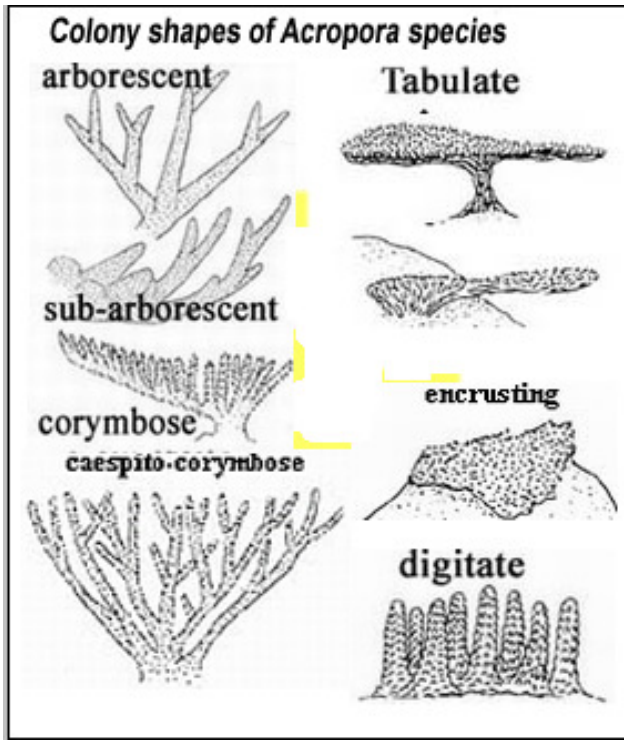
Key to expected Red Sea *Acroporidae* species (after Veron, 2000)*
Only species reported or expected in our region. For full key, be advised to use the original key: p. 447-459

Family Acroporidae
Key to Acroporid Genera

No axial corallite
-Corallites < 2 mm diameter, columella absent
--Branches without basal structures= ***Anacropora***
--Branches with basal structures = ***Montipora***
-Corallites obvious, columella present = ***Astreopora***
Axial corallites on branch ends =Genus ***Acropora***



Key to ***Acropora*** species

This key has been copied here for the need of students and divers from the northern Red Sea Region, while struggling to preserve the biodiversity of this remote and dear extension of the ocean. It has been copied and modified from Veron's book "Corals of the World". The key has been produced by experts, and reproduced by permission, for which I humbly thank them. I take no responsibility for the original key that may have been changed in later editions of the book. Yet, during the modification – ommiting species that were not reported from the Red Sea, errors may have been unintentionally introduced. In such case, changes will be corrected upon request. We have been able to identify only 20 out of the 42 ***Acropora*** species that were reported in Veron's book and web edition, only 10 in reasonable certainty. I call upon students and others to verify the list, and let me amend the present key or/and the list of species.

Colony without axial corallites.**(Group 1)**
(none in our region)

Colony with axial corallites.
Colonies with branches dominant
-Radial corallites exsert
--Branches large, irregular.
---Radial corallites immersed (**Group 2** not in our region)
---Radial corallites exert
----Branches large
-----Branches irregular .**(Group 3)**
------Branches elongate, straight
-------Radial corallites very variable = ***A. variolosa***
-------Radial corallites not very variable = ***A. hemprichii***
--Branches buffalohorn-like .**(Group 4)**
--Branches elkhorn-like .**(Group 5)**
--Branches staghorn-like
----Branches mostly upright. .**(Group 6)**
-----axial corallites distinctive, very exert = ***A. grandis***
-----axial corallites distinctive, moderately exert
-----Radial corallites with rounded tips = ***A. formosa***
----Branches becoming prostate
-----Radial corallites rasp-like (**Group 7**)

----**Colony mostly branching**
-----Center of colony branching
------Branches tapered
-------Branches highly fused = ***A. abrotanoides***
-------Branches not highly fused = ***A. nobilis***
-----Radial corallites not obviously rasp-like (**Group 8**)
------Branches ends **conspicuously upturned**
-------Branches even
--------Branches not large proximally = ***A. acuminata***
----Branches horizontal, interlocking
-----Radial corallites sharp-edged (**Group 9**)
------Radial corallites tubular appressed
-------Colony not primarilly prostrate = ***A. divaricata***
------Radial corallites rounded (**Group 10**)
(not in our region)
--Branches middle size
---Branches with conspicuous secondary branches (**Group 11**)
-----Branches and sub-branches distinct
-------Sub-branchends abundant
--------Branches curved = ***A austera***
-----Branches and sub-branches intergrade.
------Branches not highly fused, twisted = ***A. forskali***
---- Branches staghorn-like (**Group 12**)
------Axial corallites not large. Radial corallites of uniform size = ***A. microphtahalma***
----Branches interlocking vertically
-----Radial corallites sharp-edged.. (**Group 13**)
------Branches straight.
-------Radial corallites with sharp lower lips. →
---------Radial corallites of one size= ***A. haimei***
------Radial corallites irregular (**Group 14**)
------Coenosteum coarse
--------Branches compact = ***A. horrida***
------Coenosteum smooth.
-------Radial corralites conical = ***A. rufus***
----Branches interlock horizontally (**Group 15**)
(not in our region)
--Branches fine
--Branches tubular (**Group 16**)
(not in our region)
--Branches flat (**Group 17**)
(not in our region)
Colony plate-like
--Branches robust. (**Group 18**)
---Branches and sub-branches distinct
----Branches closely spaced = ***A. pharaonis***
--Branches fine
----Branches and sub-branches not distinct
-----Branches fused proximally
------Branch not laterally flattened
--------Branch ends upturned = ***A. downingi***
--------Branch ends not upturned = ***A. clathrata***
----Branches fine (**Group 19**)
-----Corallites and branchlets distinct.
----Axial corallites distinct
-----Branchlets upright
------Axial corallites dome-shaped.
-------Branches mostly fully fused = ***A. spicifera***
-------Branches mostly distinct = ***A. hyacinthus***
(the last species has been replaced in the Red Sea by *A. lamarcki*)
------Axial corallites tubular = ***A. cytherea***

Colony digitate [not branching for several cms]
-----Colony forming clumps.
------Branches cylindrical (**Group 20**)
-------Axial corallites small = ***A. ocellata***
-------Axial corallites dome-shaped.
-------Radial corralites appressed.
--------Branches radiate from a basal point = ***A. arabensis***
------Branches finger-like (**Group 21**).
-------Branches elongate with sub-branches
---------Radial corallites of two sizes **= *A. samoensis***
------Branches short
-------Axial corallites conspicuous = ***A. humilis***
-------Axial corallites not conspicuous
--------Radial corallites increase in size = ***A. gemmifera***
-----Colony forms plates = (**Group 22**)
------Axial conspicuous
--------Radial corallites not small
----------Branches taper slightly = ***A. digitifera***
--------Axial corallites large = (**Group 23**)
(not in our region)

------Radial corallites spiny (**Group 24**).
-------Axial corallites exert
------Radial corallites in rows = ***A. polystoma***
------Radial corallites not in rows = ***A. massawensis***
-----Colony corymbose = (**Group 25**)
(none in our region)
-----Colony branching = (**Group 26**)
(none in our region)

Colony forms clumps, branchlets well developed
-Radial corallites appressed (**Group 27**).
---Colony cushion-like plates
----Radial corallites in a rosette = ***A. latistella***
----Radial corallites not in a rosette = ***A. subulata***
-Radial corallites small (Group **28**).
(none in our region)
-Radial corallites with flaring lips (**Group 29**)
--Radial corallites in a rosette.
---Axial corallites long = ***A. tenuis***
--Radial corallites not in a rosette.
---Radial corallites not widely spaced = ***A. selago***

Colony forms plates .(Group 30)
-Branchlets with multiple axial corallites.
---Axial and radial corallites similar
----Peripheral branchlets outwardly inclined.
-----Radial corallites with sharp lips = ***A. parapharaonis***
--Branchlets with single axial corallites.
---Axial corallites distinct..
----Radial corallites appressed
-----Corallites opening nariform = ***A. microclados***
--Axial corallites larger than radial corallites
= ***A. anthocercis*** ➔

----Radial corallites with flaring lips = ***A. lamarcki***

Colony forms plate-like bushes
--Axial corallites dominate colony shape (**Group 31**)
(none in our region)
-Axial corallites not dominating colony shape
(**Group 32**)
---Radial corallites conspicuous.
----Axial corallites dome-shaped.
-----Aaxial and radial corallites similar
------Radial corallites widely spaced = ***A. squarrosa***
------Radial corallites crowded = ***A. plantaginea***
---Radial corallites not conspicuous = ***A. maryae****

--Corallites not dominating the colony structure.
---Radial corallites smooth-edged (**Group 33**).
----Axial corallites not conspicuous = ***A. secale***
---Radial corallites sharp-edged, nariform (**Group 34**).
----Colony corymbose = ***A. nasuta***
---Radial corallites appressed (**Group 35**).
----colony corymbose = ***A. valida***
----Colony irregularly branched.
-----Corallites with sharp edges = ***A. variabilis***

Colony thicket-like (**Group 36)**
(none in our region)
Colony forms tangles (**Group 37)**
(none in our region)
Colony bottlebrush-like (**Group 38)**
(none in our region)

The species ***A. scandens, A. eurystoma*** & ***A. corymbosa*** are not in Veron's list of extant valid species

The clsification into morphological groups was made in the original key (Corals of the World, pp. 447-459