

## *Key to expected Red Sea **Porites** (After Veron, 2000)*

Presented here as general illustration. The student is strongly advised to use the original source (p. 447-459)

### Key to **Poritidae** Genera

Corallites < 2 mm diameter

Septa fused in non-cyclical pattern = Genus **Porites**

Septa not fused

Columella present = Genus **Stylaraea**

Columella absent = Genus **Poritipora**

Corallites > 2mm diameter

Skeleton robust, not very porous = Genus **Goniopora**

Skeleton delicate, very porous = Genus **Alveopora**

### Key to **Porites** species

#### Colonies massive

-Corallites < 1 mm diameter

--Central fossa not particularly conspicuous = **P. Stephensoni** \*\*

-Corallites > 1 mm diameter

--Columella indistinct or absent

-Corallites > 1.5 mm diameter

---Triplet not fused = **P. mayeri** \*\*

--Columella present

---Triplets fused

----Colony surface not knobby = **P. lutea** \*\*

---Triplets not fused

----Pali conspicuous

-----Coenostemum conspicuously granulated = **P. echinulata** \*

----Pali present but not conspicuous

-----Lateral pair of septa mostly fused = **P. lobata** \*

----Pali absent = **P. solida** \*\*

#### Colonies thick columns or thick plates

-Colonies thick columns

--Corallites deeply excavated

---Denticles not well developed = **P. nodifera** \*

--Corallites not deeply excavated

---Walls not thick ridges = **P. columnaris** \*

#### Colonies columns, laminae and branches

Septa not irregular

Triplets not fused

< 8 pali present = **P. lichen** \*\*

#### Colonies composites of laminae and branches

-Corallites < 1 mm diameter

--Columella present

---Walls thin = **P. cumulatus** \*

---Walls not thin = **P. monticulosa** \*\*

--Columella absent

---Colony surface patterned by ridges = *P. rus* \*\*

Colony branching

-Corallites 1-1.8 mm diameter

--Corallites not deeply excavated

---Walls irregular

----Branches not very contorted = *P. nigricans* \*\*\*

---Walls not irregular

----Columella conspicuous

-----Walls angular = *P. harrisoni* \*\*

*P. alveolata*, *P. undulata* and *P. studeri* not in Veron's (2000) list

\*Species reported from Sinai Peninsula (Veron, 2000)

\*\* Species reported from Red Sea (Veron (2000)