

# SOME STONY CORALS (Scleractinia, Milleporidae) OF MAJAHUAL, QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO

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## RESUMEN

Se presenta una lista de las especies de corales pétreos colectados en Majahual, Quintana Roo, México, incluyendo la redescipción de *Meandrina meandrites* forma *brasiliensis* la cual es un nuevo registro para el Caribe Mexicano.

Palabras Clave: Scleractinia, Milleporidae, Corales, México.

## ABSTRACT

A list of twelve species of stony corals off Majahual, Quintana Roo, Mexico is presented, including the redescription of *Meandrina meandrites* forma *brasiliensis* which is a new record for the Mexican Caribbean.

Key Words: Scleractinia, Milleporidae, Corals, Mexico.

## INTRODUCTION

Along the east coast of the Yucatan peninsula, in the Mexican Caribbean, an extensive reef formation is found. Previous studies about stony corals in this region of the Caribbean are those by Jordán (1979), Jordán, et al. (1981) and Castañares and Soto, (1982), including the northeastern part of the Yucatan peninsula. We present here a list of species of stony corals collected in December, 1987 and March, 1989 in Majahual, Quintana Roo, which is located in the east coast of the Yucatan peninsula, to the east of Chetumal Bay, at 18° 43' 00" N and 87° 41' 00" W (Figure 1). This zone is not included in previous studies, so this is the first record of stony corals from Majahual and it is the southernmost one of these organisms for the Mexican Caribbean.

The specimens are deposited in the collection of the Museo de Zoología E.N.E.P. Iztacala, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

### Species list:

- Class Hydrozoa
- Order Milleporina
- Family Milleporidae
- 1. *Millepora alcicornis*  
Linnaeus, 1758
- Class Anthozoa
- Order Scleractinia
- Suborder Astrocoeniina
- Family Pocilloporidae
- 2. *Madracis decactis*  
(Lyman, 1859)

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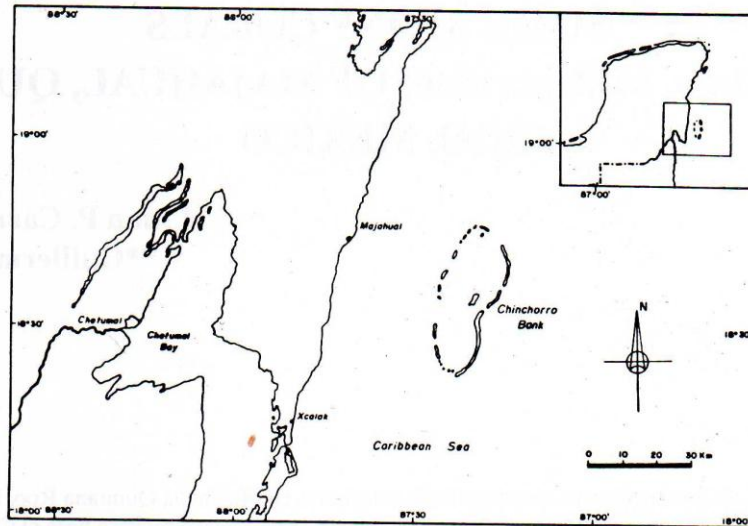


Fig. 1. Eastern Yucatan Peninsula

3. *Madracis mirabilis*  
(Duchassaing and Michelotti, 1860)

Family Acroporidae

4. *Acropora palmata* (Lamarck, 1816)

Suborder Fungiina

Family Agariciidae

5. *Agaricia agaricites* forma  
*agaricites* (Linnaeus 1758)

6. *A. tenuifolia* Dana, 1848

7. *Leptoseris cucullata*  
(Ellis and Solander, 1786)

Family Poritidae

8. *Porites astreoides*

Lamarck, 1816

9. *P. porites* forma *furcata*

Lamarck, 1816

Suborder Faviina

Family Meandrinidae

10. *Meandrina meandrites* forma *meandrites*  
(Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848)

*Meandrina meandrites* forma *brasiliensis* is reported for the first time in the Mexican Caribbean. A description of this form with synonyms, morphological observations and distributional data is presented.

11. *Dichocoenia stokesi*

Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848

Family Mussidae

12. *Mycetophyllia lamarckiana*

Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848

*Meandrina meandrites* forma *brasiliensis*  
(Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848)

Figure 2 a, b.

*Meandrina brasiliensis*.- Duarte-Bello, 1961: 50.- Smith, 1971: 89, pl. 36.

*Meandrina meandrites* forma *brasiliensis*  
Cairns, 1982: 290.

Description: Meandroid colonies with a convex calicular surface, conical with short stalk. Valleys interconnected; a single, lengthwise, central valley with lateral valleys. Four to five wide primary septa/cm alternating with smaller septa. Collines grooved in some parts of the calicular surface. Columella lamellar.

Distribution: There are at least three formae of *Meandrina meandrites* (see Cairns, 1982): formae *meandrites* (Linnaeus) and *danae* (Milne-Edwards and

Haime) have been reported from the northeastern coasts of the Yucatan peninsula, Mexico by Castañares and Soto (1982) and from another parts of the Caribbean such as Jamaica by Wells (1973) and Belize by Cairns (1982), while forma *brasiliensis* has been reported from Barbados by Lewis (1960), from Cuba by Duarte-Bello (1961), from Brazil by Laborel (1967), and from the Florida Reefs by Smith (1971). This report extends its distributional range to the Mexican Caribbean.

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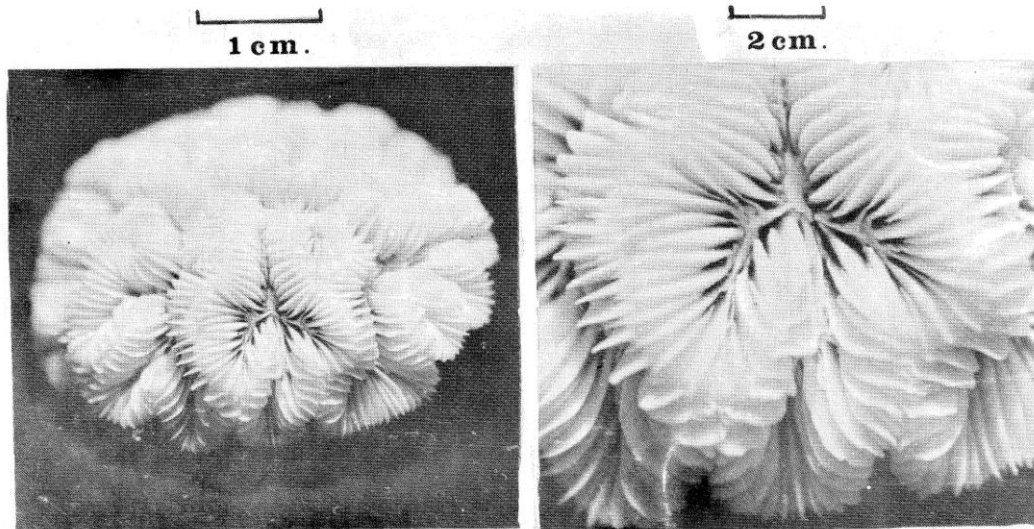


Fig. 2. *Meandrina meandrites* forma *brasiliensis*

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