

STAGHORN CORALS OF THE WORLD: AN IDENTIFICATION KEY AND PHOTO LIBRARY FOR SPECIES OF *ACROPORA*

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This presentation will be a demonstration of a computer-based interactive identification key and a photo library of types that have been developed as a companion to the reference book "Staghorn Corals of the World: A revision of the Genus *Acropora*". *Acropora* is the largest genus of scleractinian corals with 114 species currently accepted as valid. In addition to this large number of species, there is considerable variety of form within some species, making the task of identification a difficult one. The identification key and photo library, developed by a team at the Museum of Tropical Queensland and published by CSIRO publishing, operate through the program LucID. The identification key enables the user to select characters for the specimen being identified and therefore gradually eliminate unmatched species. The key includes drawings and descriptions of character states as well as field photographs, photographs of skeletons and distribution maps for each species. Video footage of spawning is also included for some species. The photo library is a catalogue of type specimens of species now attributed to *Acropora*, including synonyms as well as valid species. This library enables the user to browse type specimens in museums throughout the world, choosing by country, author or various other categories.