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**ANNOTATED CHECK LIST OF CORALS IN THE  
MASCARENE ARCHIPELAGO, INDIAN OCEAN**

**by Gérard Faure**

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# ANNOTATED CHECK LIST OF CORALS IN THE MASCARENE ARCHIPELAGO, INDIAN OCEAN

by

Gérard Faure<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

1500 samples of corals have been collected by the author since 1969, in the different reef communities of the Mascarene archipelago, from 0 to 50 meters by scuba diving. A total of 135 species (including 6 species of non-scleractinian corals, belonging to 58 genera (including the genera, *Millepora*, *Heliopora*, *Distichopora*) known to date are listed in this paper.

Variations in the distribution of genera and species between the three islands can be attributed primarily to a more or less great diversity in the biota of the islands, and secondarily to the disparity in the present status of our knowledge of the different islands.

## Introduction

The Mascarene archipelago is situated in the western Indian ocean about 700 km, to the east of Madagascar, in the longitudes 55°23' - 63°20' and latitudes 21°7' - 19°40'. It is composed of three volcanic islands: Réunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez which form geologically topographical units.

General Mascarene reef studies have been carried out by : Gardiner (1936), Baissac and al. (1962), Pichon (1967, 1971), Faure and Montaggioni (1970, 1971 a, 1971 b, 1974), Faure (1973, 1974), Montaggioni (1970, 1973).

There are many papers dealing with the systematics of corals in the Mascarene archipelago (see references), specially in Mauritius, but most of them are old and incomplete, except those of Michel (1974), Stoddart (1970), for Mauritius; Brüggemann (1879) for Rodriguez, and

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Rosen (1971) for the three islands. The present is intended to serve as a first annotated list of the corals of the Mascarene archipelago.

Class ANTHOZOA Ehrenberg, 1834

Subclass HEXACORALLIA Haeckel, 1896

Order SCLERACTINIA Bourne, 1900

Suborder ASTROCOENIINA Vaughan and Wells, 1943

Family THAMNASTERIDAE Vaughan and Wells, 1943

Genus *Psammocora* Dana, 1846

Subgenus *Psammocora* Dana, 1846

*Psammocora* (*Psammocora*) *contigua* Esper : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez common : Inner reef, lagoon coral formations, reef pool, inner reef, passe (0 - 5 m).

Recorded from Mauritius : Crossland (1952)

*Psammocora* (*Psammocora*) *nierstraszii* Van Der Horst : Reunion (uncommon), Mauritius (rare) base of spurs and grooves zone, volcanic flagstone (- 15 - 30 m).

*Psammocora* (*Psammocora*) *explanulata* Van der Horst : Reunion sporadic : Outer slope (base of grooves and overhanging sidewall) (10 - 25 m).

Subgenus *Plesioseris* Duncan, 1884

*Psammocora* (*Plesioseris*) *haimiana* Milne-Edwards and Haime : Reunion, Mauritius

sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone 0- 5 m), reef front, outer reef flat, furrow and outfall.

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1888), Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *P. folium* Umbgrove, *P. planipora* Milne-Edwards and Haime, (Michel, 1974); *P. profundicella* Gardiner, Crossland (1948) *P. Vaughani* Yabe and Eguchi, (Michel, 1974; Stoddart, 1970).

Family POCILLOPORIDAE Gray, 1842

Genus *Seriatopora* Lamarck, 1816

*Seriatopora hystrix* Dana : Mauritius

common : reef pool, inner slope, inner reef slope, 0 - 10 m, outer slope (rare, - 30 m).

*Seriatopora angulata* Klunzinger : Mauritius :

sporadic : Inner slope, reef pool, inner creek, 0 - 10 m.

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1888), Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *S. stellata* Quelch (Stoddart, 1970; Michel, 1974); *S. caliendrum* Ehrenberg (Ortmann, 1888).

Genus *Stylophora* Schweigger, 1819

*Stylophora pistillata* (Esper) : Mauritius, Reunion, Rodriguez : abundant : Outer slope (0 - 20 m), reef front, outer and inner reef flats, lagoon coral formations.

Recorded from Mauritius : Stock (1966), Michel (1974).

*Stylophora mordax* (Dana) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
 common : Outer slope (0 - 20 m), reef front, outer reef flat.  
 Recorded from Rodriguez : Brüggemann (1879), as *S. palmata*  
 Milne-Edwards and Haime.

*Stylophora subseriata* Ehrenberg : Mauritius :  
 sporadic : Inner reef, inner reef slope (0 - 20 m).  
 Recorded from Mauritius : Stock (1966), Michel 1974).

*Stylophora sp.* Reunion  
 rare : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, 25 - 40 m).

Genus *Pocillopora* Lamarck, 1818

*Pocillopora brevicornis setchelli* Hoffmeister : Reunion, Mauritius,  
 Rodriguez :  
 sporadic : Outer slope (0 - 5 m), reef front.

*Pocillopora damicornis* (Linnaeus) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
 sporadic : Outer slope 20 - 40 m.  
 Recorded from Mauritius : Crossland (1948), Crossland (1952),  
 Stoddart (1970) Michel (1974).

Recorded from Rodriguez : Brüggemann (1879), as *P. favosa* Dana

*Pocillopora danae* Verrill : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
 common : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 0 - 5 m), reef  
 front, outer and inner flats, reef pool.  
 Recorded from Mauritius : Crossland (1952), Stoddart (1970),  
 Michel (1974).

*Pocillopora cespitosa* Dana : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
 common : Outer and inner reef flats, lagoon coral formations,  
 inner slope (0 - 10 m), outer slope (sheltered reefs,  
 0 - 5 m).

*Pocillopora eydouxi* Milne-Edwards and Haime : Rodriguez :  
 rare : Reef front.

*Pocillopora verrucosa* (Ellis and Solander) : Reunion, Mauritius,  
 Rodriguez :  
 common : Reef front, outer slope (0 - 30 m).  
 Recorded from Mauritius : Crossland (1952), Stoddart (1970),  
 Michel (1974).

Recorded from Reunion : Ortmann (1888).

Other species recorded : from Mauritius, *P. damicornis favosa* ?,  
 Stock (1966), Michel (1974); *P. grandis* Dana,  
 Michel (1974); *P. mauritiana* Brüggemann, Brüggemann  
 (1877), Michel (1974); *P. elegans* (Dana), Ortmann (1888).  
 : from Rodriguez, *P. favosa* Ehrenberg (non  
*P. favosa* Dana), Brüggemann (1879); *P. grandis* Dana,  
 Brüggemann (1879).  
 : from Reunion, *P. grandis* Dana, Ortmann  
 (1888).

Other Genus recorded from Mauritius : Genus *Madracis* (Milne-  
 Edwards and Haime, 1849), *M. kauaiensis* Vaughan,  
 Michel, 1974).

## Family ASTROCOENIDAE Koby, 1890

Genus *Stylocoeniella* Yabe and Sugiyama, 1935

*Stylocoeniella armata* Ehrenberg : Reunion, Maritius :

sporadic : Outer slope (10 - 30 m).

Recorded from Mauritius : Wells (1954), as *Astocoenia stylifera*  
Pourtales.

## Family ACROPORIDAE Verrill, 1902

Genus *Acropora* Okey, 1815

*Acropora arbuscula* (Dana) : Mauritius, Rodriguez

Sporadic : reef pool, lagoon coral formations (0 - 5 m).

*Acropora corymbosa* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

common : top of spurs (spurs and grooves zone, 0 - 2 m), reef front.

Recorded from Mauritius : Lamarck (1816), Freycinet (1828),  
Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

from Rodriguez : Brook (1893), Brüggemann (1879), Vaughan (1918),  
Gravier (1911), Hoffmeister (1925).

*Acropora danae* (Milne-Edwards and Haime) : Reunion, Mauritius,  
Rodriguez:

common : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 0 - 10 m).

*Acropora humilis* (Dana) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

common : Reef front (spur upper platform), outer reef flat.

*Acropora hyacinthus* (Dana) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

common : Outer slope (0 - 10 m), inner slope (0 - 10 m), reef pool.

Recorded from Mauritius : as *A. cytherea* Dana (= *A. hyacinthus* (Dana), Wells (1954)), by Möbius and al. (1880), Ortmann (1888), Michael (1974).

: as *A. arcuata* (Brook) (= *A. hyacinthus* (Dana), Hoffmeister (1925)), by Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

*Acropora reticulata* Brook : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez:

common : Outer slope (sheltered reefs, 0 - 10 m), lagoon coral formations (0 - 2 m).

*Acropora pharaonis* Milne-Edwards and Haime : Reunion, Mauritius,

Rodriguez :

dominant : Outer slope (sheltered reefs, 0 - 10 m), inner reef flat, lagoon coral formations, inner slope, reef pool.

Recorded from Mauritius : Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

from Rodriguez : Brüggemann (1879).

*Acropora hemprichii* (Ehrenberg) : Mauritius, Rodriguez :

sporadic : Outer slope (sheltered reefs, 0 - 10 m), channel of the reef flats, reef pool.

*Acropora syringodes* (Brook) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez:

Common : Outer slope (base of spurs and grooves zone, volcanic flagstone 18 - 50 m).

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *A. appressa* (Ehrenberg), Michel (1974);

- A. baeodactyla* (Brüggemann), Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).
- A. cerealis* (Dana), Brook (1893), Vaughan (1918), Michel (1974).
- A. clathrata* (Brook), Brook (1891, 1892), Michel (1974).
- A. conccina* (Brook), Brook (1891, 1892), Michel (1974).
- A. conferta* (Brook), Brook (1891, 1892), Michel (1974).
- A. erythraea* (Klunzinger), Mobiüs and al. (1880).
- A. gonagra* (Milne-Edwards and Haime), Brüggemann (1877), Michel (1974).
- A. grandis* (Brook), Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).
- A. gravida* Dana, Michel (1974).
- A. haimei* (Milne-Edwards and Haime), Mobiüs and al. (1880), Michel (1974).
- A. irregularis* (Brüggemann), Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).
- A. macrostoma* (Brook), Brook (1891-1892), Michel (1974).
- A. multicaulis* (Brook), Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).
- A. kenti* (Brook), Stoddart (1970).
- A. muricata cervicornis* (Lamarck), Mobiüs and al. (1880), Michel (1974).
- A. muricata prolifera* (Lamarck), Freycinet (1828), Michel (1974).
- A. oligocyathus* (Brook), Brook (1892, 1893), Michel (1974).
- A. polystoma* (Brook), Brook (1891, 1893), Michel (1974).
- A. pyramidalis* (Klunzinger), Mobiüs and al. (1880), Michel (1974).
- A. rousseauai* (Milne-Edwards and Haime), Michel (1974).
- A. seriata* (Ehrenberg), Brook (1893), Michel (1974).
- A. stigmataria* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Michel (1974).
- A. symmetrica* Brook, Brook (1891), Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).
- A. tuberculosa* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Michel (1974).
- A. tylostoma* Ehrenberg, Brook (1893), Michel (1974).
- A. sp*, Stoddart (1970).
- A. scherzeriana* Brüggemann, Klunzinger (1879).

from Rodriguez :

- A. alces* (Dana), Brüggemann (1879).
- A. baeodactyla* (Brüggemann), Vaughan (1918).
- A. brevicollis* Brook, Vaughan (1918).
- A. conferta* (Quelch), Vaughan (1918), Wells (1954) ?
- A. corymbosa* (Lamarck), Brüggemann (1879).
- A. flabelliformis* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Brüggemann (1879).
- A. gonagra* (Milne-Edwards and Haime), Brüggemann (1879).
- A. haimei* (Milne-Edwards and Haime), Brüggemann (1879).
- A. microclados* (Ehrenberg), Brüggemann (1879).
- A. plantaginea* (Lamarck), Brüggemann (1879).
- A. pustulosa* (Milne-Edwards and Haime), Brüggemann (1879).
- A. seriata* (Ehrenberg), Brüggemann (1879).

from Reunion:

*A. granulosa* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Milne-Edwards and Haime (1860).

Genus *Astreopora* de Blainville, 1830.

*Astreopora myriophtalma* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez : common : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, volcanic flagstone, 10 - 40 m).

Recorded from Mauritius : Bernard (1896), Michel (1974).

Genus *Montipora* Quoy and Gaimard, 1830.

*Montipora edwardsi* Bernard : Rodriguez

uncommon : Inner reef flat, lagoon coral formations.

*Montipora foliosa* (Pallas) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez.

sporadic : Lagoon coral formations, reef pool, passe, inner slope, outer slope (sheltered reef).

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1888), Vaughan (1918), Thiel (1932), Crossland (1952), Bernard (1897).

*Montipora informis* Bernard : Reunion :

rare : Inner reef flat, lagoon coral formations.

*Montipora verrucosa* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritius.

sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, volcanic flagstone, 12 - 50 m).

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1888, 1892).

*Montipora cf tuberculosa* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1888-1889-1892).

sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone), outer and inner reef flats.

*Montipora cf millepora* Crossland : Mauritius

rare : outer slope (volcanic flagstone - 48 m).

Other species recorded from Mauritius :

*M. explanata* Brüggemann, Bernard (1897), Brüggemann (1879), Michel (1974).

*M. expansa* Dana, Ortmann (1888).

*M. guppyi* Bernard, Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

*M. lanuginosa* Bernard, Bernard (1897), Michel (1974).

*M. lobulata* Bernard, Bernard (1897), Michel (1974).

*M. mammifera* Bernard, Michel (1974).

*M. rus* (Forskal), Ortmann (1888).

*M. solanderi* Bernard, Bernard (1897), Michel (1974).

*M. stylosa* (Ehrenberg), Ortmann (1888-1889).

*M. undata* Bernard, Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

From Rodriguez :

*M. explanata* Brüggemann, Brüggemann (1879), Bernard (1897).

*M. divaricata* Brüggemann, Brüggemann (1879), Bernard (1897).

*M. incrustans* Brüggemann, Brüggemann (1879), Bernard (1897).

*M. lichen* Dana, Brüggemann (1879), Bernard (1897).

*M. perforata* Bernard, Bernard (1897) = *M. explanata* Brüggemann.

*M. solanderi* Bernard, Bernard (1897) non *M. foliosa* (Pallas) Brüggemann (1879).

from Mascarene

*M. spongodes* Bernard, Bernard (1897).

*M. subtilis* Bernard, Bernard (1897), Wells (1954).

Suborder FUNGIINA Verrill, 1865.

Superfamily AGARICIIDAE Gray, 1847.

Family AGARICIIDAE Gray, 1847.

Genus *Pavona* Lamarck, 1801.

Subgenus *Pavona* Lamarck, 1801.

*Pavona (Pavona) cactus* (Forskål) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Inner reef flat, reef pool, 0 - 5 m.

Recorded from Mauritius : Michel (1974).

*Pavona danai* Milne-Edwards and Haime : Reunion, Rodriguez :  
rare : Inner reef flat, reef pool, 0 - 5 m.

*Pavona (Pavona) decussata* Dana : Reunion, Mauritius :  
sporadic : Inner reef flat, reef pool, 0 - 5 m.

*Pavona (Pavona) clavus* Dana : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope, 0 - 30 m (spurs and grooves zone,  
volcanic flagstone), lagoon coral formations (0 - 5 m).

*Pavona (Pavona) divaricata* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritius Rodriguez :  
common : Inner reef flat, reef pool, lagoon reef.

*Pavona (Pavona) explanulata* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (spurs with overhanging sidewall, reef  
gallery and reef tunnel) - 5 - 30 m.

*Pavona (Pavona) variens* (Verrill) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
common : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 0 - 15 m).  
Outer and inner reef flat.

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1889), as *P. repens* Brüggemann.  
Other species recorded from Mauritius :

*P. cristata* Ellis and Solander, Michel (1974) = *P. cactus* (Forskål).

*P. cristata* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Michel (1974)  
= *P. cactus* (Forskål).

*P. frondifera* Lamarck, Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

*P. praetorta* Dana, Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

*P. seriata* Brüggemann, Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

from Rodriguez :

*P. lata* Dana, Matthai, 1974.

*P. cristata* Ellis and Solander, Brüggemann (1879)  
= *P. cactus* (Forskål).

Subgenus *Pseudocolumnastraea* Yabe and Sugiyama, 1933.

*Pavona (Pseudocolumnastraea) pollicata* Wells : Reunion :  
rare : Outer slope of sheltered reefs, 5 - 15 m.

Genus *Leptoseris* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1849.

*Leptoseris columnna* Yabe and Sugiyama : Reunion :  
rare : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, stone and nodule  
pavement, 35 - 60 m).

*Leptoseris hawaiensis* Vaughan : Reunion, Mauritius :  
rare : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, stone and nodule  
pavement, 35 - 60 m).

*Leptoseris incrassata* (Quelch) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (overhanging sidewall, reef tunnel, reef  
gallery, volcanic flagstone, 15 - 45 m).

*Leptoseris scabra* Vaughan : Reunion :  
rare : Outer slope (stone and nodule pavement, - 60 m).

*Leptoseris sp* : Mauritius :  
rare : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, - 45 m).

Genus *Leptoseris* ? Milne-Edwards and Haime

*Leptoseris ? mycetoseroide* Wells : Reunion, Mauritius :  
sporadic : Outer slope (reef tunnel, reef gallery, overhanging  
sidewall, 15 - 40 m).

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *Leptoseris digitata*  
Vaughan, Stoddart (1970),  
Michel (1974).

from Reunion : *Leptoseris fragilis* Milne-  
Edwards and Haime, Milne-  
Edwards and Haime (1860).,  
Matthai (1924).

Genus *Agariciella* Ma,

*Agariciella ponderosa* Gardiner : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 10 - 30 m), passe  
(2 - 10 m).

Genus *Pachyseris* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1849.

*Pachyseris speciosa* (Dana) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez.  
common : Outer slope, 10 - 40 m (spurs and grooves zone, volcanic  
flagstone), passe (2 - 15 m).

Recorded from Mauritius : Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

*Pachyseris rugosa* (Milne-Edwards and Haime) : Reunion :  
rare : Outer slope (15 - 40 m).

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *P. laevicollis* (Dana),  
Michel (1974).

Family SIDERASTREIDAE Vaughan and Wells, 1943.

Genus *Coscinarea* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1848.

*Coscinarea cf. columnna* Dana : Reunion, Rodriguez :  
rare : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone of sheltered reefs),  
reef pool, passe.

*Coscinarea monile* (Forskål) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez  
 common : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, volcanic flagstone,  
 10 - 30 m), passe.

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1892).

*Coscinarea sp.* : Mauritius :

rare : Inner reef, - 3 m.

Genus *Horastrea* Pichon, 1971.

*Horastrea indica* Pichon : Reunion, Mauritius :

sporadic : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, 15 - 40 m).

Recorded from Reunion : Pichon, 1971.

Superfamily FUNGIICAE Dana, 1846

Family FUNGIIDAE Dana, 1846.

Genus *Cycloseris* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1849.

*Cycloseris cyclolites* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritius :

sporadic : Outer slope (base of spurs and grooves zone, and  
 specially volcanic flagstone, 25 - 40 m).

Recorded from Mauritius and Rodriguez : Matthai, (1924).

Genus *Fungia* Lamarck, 1801.

Subgenus *Fungia* Lamarck, 1801.

*Fungia (Fungia) fungites* (Linnaeus) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez:

common : (Mauritius and Rodriguez) : Branched coral reef flat,  
 reef pool, inner reef flat, lagoon coral formations,  
 inner slope, 0 - 5 m.

rare : Reunion.

Recorded from Mauritius : Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

Subgenus *Danafungia* Wells, 1956.

*Fungia (Danafungia) danai* Milne-Edwards and Haime : Reunion, Mauritius,  
 Rodriguez :

sporadic : Outer slope (0 - 10 m), branched coral reef flat, passe.

Subgenus *Pleuractis* Verrill, 1864.

*Fungia (Pleuractis) scutaria* Lamarck : Reunion, Mauritius :

common : Outer slope (20 - 40 m).

Recorded from Mauritius : Michel (1974).

*Fungia ? somervillei* Gardiner : Mauritius :

rare : Outer slope, - 50 m.

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *F. agariciformis* Lamarck,  
 Michel (1974).

*F. madagascarensis* Vaughan,  
 Stoddart (1970), Michel  
 (1974).

*F. patella* (Ellis and  
 Solander), Matthai (1924);

*F. samboangensis* Vaughan,  
Stoddart (1970),  
Michel (1974).

from Rodriguez:

*F. dentigera* Leuckart,  
Brüggemann (1879);  
*F. haimei* Verrill,  
Brüggemann (1879).

Genus *Herpolitha* Eschscholtz, 1826.

*Herpolitha limax* (Esper) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
common : (Mauritius : Outer slope (sheltered reef, 5 - 15 m), reef  
pool, lagoon, inner slope (0 - 15 m).  
rare (Reunion, Rodriguez) : Outer slope (-20 - 40 m).  
Recorded from Mauritius : Matthes (1924), Yabe and Sugiyama (1941),  
Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

Genus *Podabacia* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1849.

*Podabacia crustacea* Pallas : Reunion, Mauritius :  
rare : Outer and inner reef slopes, passe, 15 - 20 m.

Superfamily PORITICAE Gray, 1842.

Family PORITIDAE Gray, 1842.

Genus *Porites* Link, 1807.

*Porites* (*Porites*) *somaliensis* Gravier : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
common : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, volcanic flagstone,  
0 - 50 m), reef flat (outer and inner reef flats, micro-  
atoll zone, lagoon coral formations, reef pool, passe,  
0 - 20 m.

Recorded from Mauritius : Michel (1974).

*Porites* (*Porites*) *solida* (Forskål) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez:  
common : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, volcanic flagstone,  
0 - 40 m., reef flat, lagoon coral formations, reef pool,  
0 - 15 m.

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1892, 1888), Stoddart (1970),  
Crossland (1948), Michel (1974).

*Porites* (*Porites*) *pukoensis* Vaughan : Reunion, Rodriguez :

rare : Reef flat with scattered coral growth.

*Porites* (*Porites*) *nigrescens* Dana : Reunion, Mauritius :  
sporadic : Lagoon coral formations, reef pool, passe, outer slope  
(sheltered reefs, 0 - 10 m).

*Porites* (*Porites*) *andrewsi* Vaughan : Mauritius

rare : Lagoon coral formations, outer slope (- 45 m).

Other species recorded from Mauritius :

*P. columnaris* Klunzinger, Ortmann (1888).

*P. lichen* Dana, Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

*P. lobata* Dana, Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

*P. lutea* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Stoddart (1970),  
Michel (1974).

- P. mauritiensis prima* Bernard, Bernard (1905),  
Michel (1974).  
*P. mauritiensis secunda* Bernard, Bernard (1905),  
Michel (1974).  
*P. mauritiensis quarta* Bernard, Bernard (1905),  
Michel (1974).  
*P. mauritiensis quinta* Bernard, Bernard (1905),  
Michel (1974).

Recorded from Rodriguez:

- P. arenosa* (Esper), Brüggemann (1879) = *P. rodericensis*  
*secunda* Bernard,  
Bernard, (1905),  
Crossland (1948).  
*P. lutea* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Brüggemann 1879 =  
*P. rodericensis*  
*prima* Bernard,  
Bernard, (1905).

from Reunion :

- P. arenosa* (Esper), Milne-Edwards and Haime (1860).

#### Subgenus *Synarea* Verrill, 1864.

*Porites (Synarea) iwayamaensis* Eguchi : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone of sheltered reefs,  
0 - 25 m), passe, inner reef flat, microatoll zone,  
reef pool.

*Porites (Synarea) cf. danae* Milne-Edwards and Haime : Reunion, Mauritius,  
Rodriguez :

sporadic : Lagoon coral formations, microatoll zone.

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1888), Michel (1974).

#### Genus *Goniopora* Blainville, 1830.

*Goniopora lobata* Milne-Edwards and Haime : Reunion, Mauritius,  
Rodriguez :

sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone of sheltered reefs  
(0 - 20 m), passe.

*Goniopora savigny* Milne-Edwards and Haime : Reunion :

uncommon : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone of sheltered reefs,  
- 15 m), lagoon (0 - 2 m).

Recorded from Mauritius : Michel (1974).

*Goniopora cf somaliensis* Vaughan : Reunion :

rare : Outer slope, - 15 m.

*Goniopora tenuidens* Quelch : Reunion, Mauritius :

rare : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 5 - 15 m).

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *G. mauritiensis prima*  
Bernard, Bernard (1903),  
Michel (1974).

#### Genus *Alveopora* Blainville, 1830.

*Alveopora cf mortensenii* Crossland : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone of sheltered reefs,  
0 - 20 m), passe.

Recorded from Mauritius : Crossland (1952).

*Alveopora* sp : Reunion, Mauritius :

rare : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, 25 - 40 m).

Other species recorded from Mauritius

*A. daedala* Blainville, Ortmann (1888), Michel (1974).

*A. retepora* Blainville, Ortmann (1888), Michel (1974).

*A. verilliana* Dana = *A. daedala* Blainville, Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

*A. octoformis* Blainville, Ortmann (1888).

Suborder FAVIINA Vaughan and Wells, 1943.

Superfamily FAVIICAE Gregory, 1900.

Family FAVIIDAE Gregory, 1900.

Subfamily FAVIINAE Gregory, 1900.

Genus *Plesiastrea* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1848.

*Plesiastrea versipora* Lamarck : Reunion, Mauritius

rare : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 10 - 20 m.).

Recorded from Rodriguez : Brüggemann (1879), as *P. quatrefagesana* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Chevalier (1971).

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *P. peroni* Milne-Edwards and Haime (near *P. versipora* Lamarck), Ortmann (1888).

Genus *Favia* Oken, 1815.

*Favia favus* (Forskål) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

sporadic : Inner reef flat (reef flat with scattered coral growth), lagoon coral formations, reef pool, inner slope, 0 - 5 m.

Recorded from Mauritius : Ma (1959), Chevalier (1971), Wijsman-Best (1972), Michel (1974).

from Rodriguez : Brüggemann (1879), as *F. denticulata* Ellis and Solander and *F. affinis* Milne-Edwards and Haime.

*Favia pallida* (Dana) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

common : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, volcanic flagstone, 0 - 40 m), Outer and inner reef flats.

*Favia speciosa* (Dana) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

sporadic : Same repartition as *F. pallida*.

Recorded from Mauritius : Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

*Favia stelligera* (Dana) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

sporadic : Reef front, outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 0 - 10 m).

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1888), as *F. lobata* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Chevalier (1971).

from Rodriguez : Brüggemann (1879), as *F. lobata* Milne-Edwards and Haime.

*Favia laxa* (Klunzinger) : Reunion:

rare : Outer slope (0 - 10 m).

*Favia cf hombroni* (Rousseau) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 5 - 20 m).

Genus *Favites* Link, 1807.

*Favites abdita* (Ellis and Solander) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
Sporadic : Outer slope (0 - 40 m), outer and inner reef flats,  
passe.

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1888), as *Prionastraea gibbosa*  
Klunzinger, Ortmann (1892), as  
*Goniastrea seychellenis*<sup>1</sup> Milne-Edwards  
and Haime, Crossland (1952), Chevalier  
(1971).

*Favites pentagona* (Esper) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
common : Outer slope (0 - 40 m).

*Favites vivens* (Dana) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (0 - 40 m).

Other species recorded from Rodriguez : *Prionastraea rodericana*  
Brüggemann, Brüggemann (1879); *P. scabra*  
Brüggemann, Brüggemann (1879).

Genus *Goniastrea* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1848.

*Goniastrea retiformis* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
common : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 0-15 m), reef front,  
outer and inner reef flat.

Recorded from Mauritius : Ma (1959), Chevalier (1971), Michel  
(1974).

*Goniastrea pectinata* (Ehrenberg) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
abundant : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 0 - 20 m), reef  
front, outer and inner reef flats, reef pool, passe.

Recorded from Mauritius : Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

*Goniastrea cf incrassata* Duncan : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (5 - 30 m).

Genus *Caulastrea* Dana, 1846.

*Caulastrea tumida* Matthai : Reunion, Mauritius :  
sporadic : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, 25 - 40 m).

Genus *Oulophyllia* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1848.

*Oulophyllia crispa* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
common : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, volcanic flagstone,  
10 - 30 m).

*Oulophyllia cf aspera* Quelch : Mauritius  
rare : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, - 35m).

Genus *Platygyra* Ehrenberg, 1834.

*Platygyra daedala* (Ellis and Solander) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
abundant : Outer slope (0 - 40 m), reef front, inner and outer reef  
flats, lagoon coral formations, reef pool, passe.

Recorded from Mauritius : Stoddart (1970), Wijsman-Best (1972),  
Michel (1974).

<sup>1</sup>According to Chevalier (1971), Wijsman-Best (1972).

Recorded from Mauritius and Mascarene islands : Yabe and al.  
(1936).

Recorded from Rodriguez : Matthai 1928, Brüggemann (1879), as  
*P. esperi* Milne-Edwards and Haime.

*Platygyra lamellina* (Ehrenberg) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Inner reef flat, lagoon coral formations, passe, reef  
pool.

Recorded from Mauritius : Michel (1974).

Genus *Leptoria* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1848.

*Leptoria phrygia* (Ellis and Solander) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 0 - 15 m), reef  
front, outer and inner reef flats.

Recorded from Mauritius : Matthai (1928), Crossland (1952),  
Michel (1974).

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *Leptoria gracilis* (Dana),  
Ortmann (1888), Matthai (1928), Yabe and al.  
(1936).

From Rodriguez : *Leptoria gracilis* (Dana),  
Brüggemann (1879), as  
*L. tenuis* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Matthai (1928).

Genus *Hydnophora* Fischer de Waldheim, 1807.

*Hydnophora microconos* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
common : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, volcanic flagstone,  
0 - 35 m), reef front, Outer and inner reef flats.

Recorded from Rodriguez : Brüggemann (1879).

*Hydnophora exesa* (Pallas) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 0 - 15 m), lagoon  
coral formations, reef pool, passe.

Recorded from Mauritius and Rodriguez : Matthai (1928).

Recorded from Mauritius and Mascarene islands : Yabe and al. (1936).

Subfamily MONTASTREINAE Vaughan and Wells, 1943.

Genus *Montastrea*

*Montastrea curta* (Dana) : Reunion, Mauritius :  
rare : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 0 - 15 m), reef  
front.

Genus *Leptastrea* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1848.

*Leptastrea purpurea* (Dana) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 0 - 15 m), reef  
front, outer and inner reef flats.

*Leptastrea transversa* (Kniazinger) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves, 0 - 20 m), reef front.

*Leptastrea bottae* (Milne-Edwards and Haime) : Reunion, Mauritius :  
rare : Reef flat with scattered coral growth.

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *L. ehrenbergiana* Milne-  
Edwards and Haime, Ortmann (1888).

Genus *Cyphastrea* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1848.

*Cyphastrea microptalma* : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

common : Inner reef flat, lagoon coral formations, 0 - 5 m.

*Cyphastrea sairailia* (Forskål) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 0 - 15 m).

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1888).

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *C. chalcidicum* (Forskål), Michel (1974).

Genus *Echinopora* Lamarck, 1816.

*Echinopora gemmacea* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

Abundant : Outer slope (0 - 30 m), outer and inner reef flats, lagoon coral formations, reef pool, passe, 0 - 15 m.

Recorded from Mauritius : Milne-Edwards and Haime (1857), as

*E. ehrenbergii* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Ortmann (1888); as *E. ehrenbergii* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Thiel (1932), Michel (1974).

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *E. lamellosa* (Esper), Stock (1966), Michel (1974).

from Rodriguez : *E. spinulosa* Brüggemann, Brüggemann (1879), near *E. gemmacea* Lamarck.

Family ASTRANGIIDAE Verrill, 1869.

Genus *Culicia* Dana, 1846.

*Culicia cuticula* Klunzinger : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

uncommon : On the under face of massive and encrusting forms, outer slope (0 - 30 m), reef front, passe.

Family OCULINIDAE Gray, 1847.

Subfamily Galaxeinae Vaughan and Wells, 1943.

Genus *Galaxea* Oken, 1815.

*Galaxea fascicularis* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

common : Outer slope (0 - 30 m), reef front, outer and inner reef flats, reef pool, passe.

Recorded from Mauritius : Ortmann (1888, 1892), Thiel (1932), Stoddart (1970), Chevalier (1971), Michel (1974).

from Mauritius and Mascarene islands : Yabe and al. (1936).

from Rodriguez : Brüggemann (1879), Thiel (1932), Chevalier (1971).

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *G. musicalis* (Linné) =

*G. clavus* (Dana), Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974);

*G. hexagonalis* Milne-Edwards and Haime, Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

## Family MUSSIDAE Ortmann, 1890.

Genus *Acanthastrea* (Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1848).

*Acanthastrea echinata* (Dana) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (0 - 30 m), reef pool, passe inner slope,  
0 - 15 m.

Other species from Rodriguez : *A. angulosa* Brüggemann, Brüggemann  
(1879).

Genus *Lobophyllia* de Blainville, 1830.

*Lobophyllia corymbosa* (Forskål) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (sheltered reef, 0 - 20 m), passe, reef  
pool.

Recorded from Mauritius : Milne-Edwards and Haime (1849), as  
*L. rufis* Milne-Edwards and Haime,  
Ortmann (1888), Matthai (1928),  
Crossland (1952).

from Mauritius and Mascarene islands : Yabe and al. (1936).

from Rodriguez : Brüggemann (1879), as *L. umbellata*  
Brüggemann, Matthai (1928), Crossland  
(1952).

*Lobophyllia costata* (Dana) : Mauritius :

rare : Outer slope (5 - 20 m).

*Lobophyllia hemprichii* (Ehrenberg) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
common : Outer slope (10 - 40 m), passe (0 - 10 m).

Recorded from Mauritius : Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

Genus *Sympyllum* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1848.

*Sympyllum recta* (Dana) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves, volcanic flagstone,  
15 - 40 m), passe (0 - 15 m).

Genus *Parascolymia* Wells

*Parascolymia vitiensis* (Brüggemann) : Reunion, Mauritius :  
common : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, 20 - 40 m).

## Family PECTINIIDAE Vaughan and Wells, 1943.

Genus *Echinophyllia* Klunzinger, 1879.

*Echinophyllia aspera* (Ellis and Solander) : Reunion, Mauritius,  
Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, volcanic flagstone,  
10 - 40 m).

Genus *Oxypora* Saville Kent, 1871.

*Oxypora lacera* (Verrill) : Reunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, volcanic flagstone,  
10 - 40 m), passe (5 - 15 m).

Genus *Mycedium* Oken, 1815.

*Mycedium tenuicostatum* (Verrill) : Rodriguez :  
rare : Outer slope (sheltered reef, 15 - 20 m).

Recorded from Mauritius : Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).  
*Mycedium elephantotum* (Pallas) : Mauritius :  
 rare : Passe and reef pool, 5 - 15 m.

Genus *Pectinia* Oken, 1815.  
*Pectinia cf. lactuca* (Pallas) : Reunion :  
 rare : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, -35 m).

Suborder CARYOPHYLLIINA Vaughan and Wells, 1943.  
 Superfamily CARYOPHYLLIICAE Gray, 1847.  
 Family CAROPHYLLIIDAE Gray, 1847.

Genus *Euphyllia* Dana, 1846.  
*Euphyllia glabrescens* (Chamisso and Eysen Hardt) : Mauritius :  
 rare : Passe, reef pool, 2 - 15 m.

Genus *Plerogyra* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1848.  
*Plerogyra sinuosa* Dana : Mauritius :  
 rare : Reef pool, passe, 2 - 15 m.

Genus *Gyrosomilia* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1851.  
*Gyrosomilia interrupta* (Ehrenberg) : Reunion, Mauritius :  
 uncommon : Outer slope (sheltered reef, 5 - 40 m), passe, reef  
 pool, creek

Suborder DENDROPHYLLIINA Vaughan and Wells, 1943.  
 Family DENDROPHYLLIIDAE Gray, 1847.

Genus *Dendrophyllia* de Blainville, 1830.  
*Dendrophyllia nigrescens* Dana : Mauritius :  
 rare : Passe, 15 - 20 m.  
 Recorded from Mauritius : Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

*Dendrophyllia* sp. 1 : Reunion :  
 rare : Outer slope (sheltered reef) - 15 m.  
*Dendrophyllia* sp. 2 : Mauritius :  
 rare : Passe, - 20 m.  
 Other species recorded from Mauritius : *D. ehrenbergiana* Milne-  
 Edwards and Haime, Ortmann  
 (1889); *D. manni* (Verrill),  
 Stoddart (1970), Michel  
 (1974), *D. profunda*  
 (Pourtales), Stoddart  
 (1970), Michel (1974).  
 from Rodriguez : *D. ehrenbergiana* Milne-  
 Edwards and Haime,  
 Brüggemann (1879).

Genus *Tubastrea* Lesson, 1834.  
*Tubastrea aurea* (Quoy and Gaimard) : Mauritius, Rodriguez :  
 sporadic : Reef front, outer slope (0 - 5 m).  
 Recorded from Mauritius as *D. coccinea* (Michelin) by : Michelin  
 (1845), Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

*Tubastrea micrantha* (Ehrenberg) : Mauritus, Rodriguez :  
uncommon : Passe (10 - 20 m).  
Recorded from Mauritus : Ortmann (1888), Stoddart (1970),  
Michel (1974).

Genus *Turbinaria* Oken, 1815.

*Turbinaria mesenterina* (Lamarck) : Reunion, Mauritus, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (sheltered reef, 0 - 5 m), reef front,  
outer reef flat.

Recorded from Mauritus : Ortmann (1888).  
from Rodriguez : Brüggemann (1879), Wells (1954),  
Bernard (1896), Vaughan (1918).

*Turbinaria crater* (Pallas) : Mauritus :  
rare : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, 40 m).

*Turbinaria peltata* Esper : Reunion, Mauritus :  
common : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, 20 - 50 m).

Recorded from Mauritus : Bernard (1896), Vaughan (1918).

*Turbinaria cf. irregularis* : Reunion, Mauritus, Rodriguez :  
sporadic : Outer slope (volcanic flagstone, 20 - 35 m).

Recorded from Mauritus : Wells (1954), Bernard (1896).

*Turbinaria cf. porcellanea* Bernard : Rodriguez :  
rare : Outer slope (sheltered reef, - 20 m), passe, - 20 m.

*Turbinaria sp.* : Mauritus :  
rare : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, - 20 m).

Genus *Heteropsammia* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1848.

*Heteropsammia michelini* Milne-Edwards and Haime.  
Recorded from Mauritus : Stoddart (1970), Michel (1974).

Subclass OCTOCORALLIA Haeckel  
Order COENOTHECALIA Bourne, 1895.  
Family HELIOPORIDAE Moseley, 1876.

Genus *Heliopora* Moseley, 1876.

*Heliopora coerulea* (Pallas) : Mauritus, Rodriguez :  
uncommon : Outer slope (8 - 12 m), outer reef flat, lagoon coral  
formations.  
Recorded from Mauritus : Michelin (1845), Michel (1974).  
from Rodriguez : Tixier-Durivault (1972).

Class HYDROZOA Owen  
Order MILLEPORINA Hickson  
Family MILLEPORIDAE Flemming

Genus *Millepora* Linnaeus

*Millepora platyphylla* Ehrenberg and Hemprich : Reunion, Mauritus,  
Rodriguez :  
common : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, 0 - 15 m), reef  
front, outer reef flat.  
Recorded from Mauritus : Ortmann (1892), as *M. verrucosa* Milne-  
Edwards and Haime, Boschma (1957),  
Michel (1974).

from Rodriguez : Brüggemann (1879), as *M. verrucosa*  
Milne-Edwards and Haime.

*Millepora exaesa* Forskål : Rodriguez :

rare : Inner reef flat

Recorded from Rodriguez : Brüggemann (1879), as *M. gonagra* Milne-  
Edwards and Haime.

*Millepora intricata* Milne-Edwards and Haime : Mauritius, Rodriguez :

sporadic : Inner slope, reef pool, 2 - 8 m.

*Millepora tenera* Boschma : Mauritius, Rodriguez :

sporadic : Inner slope, reef pool, lagoon coral formations, 2 - 5m.

Recorded from Mauritius : Boschma (1957), Michel (1974).

Other species recorded from Mauritius : *M. dichotoma* Forskål,  
Michel (1974); *M. truncata*  
Dana, Michel (1974);  
*M. tuberosa* Boschma,  
Boschma (1966), Michel  
(1974).

Order STYLASTERINA Hickson and England

Family STYLASTERIDAE Gray

Subfamily DISTICHPORINAE Stechow

Genus *Distichopora* Lamarck

*Distichopora violacea* (Pallas) : Reunion ?, Mauritius, Rodriguez :

uncommon : Outer slope (spurs and grooves zone, reef tunnel  
overhanging sidewall, 2 - 10 m).

Recorded from Mauritius : Michelin (1845), Michel (1974).

### Conclusions

The list given here cannot be exhaustive for various reasons:  
first some of the specimens collected are now being identified and do  
not appear here. Second some genera and species still await discovery  
in this part of the Indian Ocean. Thus only in the most recent studies  
of the outer slope of the reefs of the archipelago has the presence of  
the following genera been detected : *Stylocoeniella*, *Culicia*,  
*Caulastrea*, *Gyrosomilia*, *Pectinia*, *Pseudocolumnastrea*.

In order not to increase the risk of errors we have mentioned  
separately the species appearing in the lists of Stoddard (1970) and  
Michel (1974), with the exception of those species actually seen during  
the present survey. In fact in Michel's list only 50 species, belong-  
ing to 22 genera, exist in the collections of the Mauritius Institute,  
Port-Louis (Mauritius) where they are represented by one or only a few  
specimens of which the names originally provided by P. Boshoff. Further  
48 other species (27 of which occur in the genera *Acropora* and *Porites*)  
are listed or described in old papers and are in need of revision.

Though it might be premature to draw final conclusions from the  
present survey (see table) some findings are evident:

The greater range of genera seen in Mauritius is due to a greater variety of biotopes in the reef than exists in Réunion.

The relatively high number of genera and species found in Réunion however is due to a better knowledge of the outer slope of the reefs of that island.

The relatively low figures given for Rodriguez are due on the one hand to the fact that through lack of facilities studies have been less intensive than on the other two islands; on the other hand the presence of an important "soil pollution" which extends from the lagoons to the outer slope constitutes an obstacle to the development of the coral population both qualitatively and quantitatively. The cause of the "pollution" is the extensive clearing of forests on the island which moreover lies right in the path of the main tropical cyclones.

With the exception of Mauritius the lack of data concerning the abundance of genera and species has long led to the belief that the Mascarene archipelago was relatively poor in scleractinian corals. The present check list, however, shows a wealth comparable to that of the neighbouring islands of the S.W. Indian Ocean. Rosen (1971) gives (including inferred and doubtful genera records) the following figures : Maldives, South (60); Seychelles (57); Aldabra (55); Chagos (56); Cargados (47); Farquhar (52); Comoros (48); Amirantes (54). Further the results obtained to date in the Mascarenes confirm the generic diversity model for reefs in the Indian Ocean of the same author.

The specimens on which the present provisional list have been based are currently being compared with material previously collected in the same part of the Indian Ocean and located in the main European museums.

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Table 1. Distribution of Scleractinian Corals

Localities	Scleractinian corals		Non-Scleractinian corals		Total	
	Genera	Species	Genera	Species	Genera	Species
Reunion	49	105	2	2	51	107
Mauritius	52	116	3	5	55	121
Rodriguez	38	84	3	6	41	90
Total	55	129	3	6	58	135