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

by Gérard Faure

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ANNOTATED CHECK LIST OF OCTOCORALLIA IN THE MASCARENE ARCHIPELAGO, INDIAN OCEAN

by

Gérard Faure¹

Summary

A total of 112 species belonging to 37 genera of the Mascarene Octocorallia known to date are listed in this paper. Some of them were collected by the author, by means of scuba, and determined by Tixier-Durivault (Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris). The others were recorded in former papers, specially by Tixier-Durivault (1966, 1972) and Michel (1974).

Introduction

The Mascarene Archipelago is situated in the western Indian Ocean about 700 km, to the east of Madagascar, in the longitudes 55°32' - 63°20' and latitudes 21°7' - 19°40'. It is composed of three volcanic islands : Réunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez, forming separate geological topographical units. The total surface of areas of the coral reefs are very different according to the islands : negligible (12 km²), compared with that of the island (2500 km²) in Reunion, more important in Mauritius (300 km² for 1800 km²) and very important in Rodriguez where the reef is overlapping 200 km² as compared to 110 km² in terrestrial surface.

General Mascarene reef studies were done by : Gardiner (1936), Baissac and al. (1962), Pichon (1967, 1971), Faure and Montaggioni (1970, 1971a, 1971b, 1974), Faure (1973, 1974), Montaggioni (1970, 1973). There are some records of Octocorallia from the Mascarene Archipelago in the works of : Ellis and Solander (1786), Lamarck (1816), Templeton (1835), Michelin (1845), Milne-Edwards and Haime (1857), Studer (1878), Brüggemann (1879), Ridley (1882a, 1882b, 1882c), Thomson and MacKinnon (1910), Simpson (1910), Stiasny (1940), but there are very few works concerning the systematics of Octocorallia from the Archipelago, except those of Tixier-Durivault (1966, 1972), Michel (1974).

¹Station Marine d'Endoume, Marseille; Centre Universitaire, St. Clothilde, Réunion.

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This paper intends to serve as a first provisional list of the Octocorallia in the Mascarene islands.

Order ALCYONACEA Lamouroux, 1816

Family ALCYONIIDAE Lamouroux, 1812

Genus *Alcyonium* Linné, 1758

- Alcyonium aspiculatum* Tixier-Durivault, 1965
 RO 65 A¹ : Passe of Port Sud-Est, - 8m : Rodriguez
 RO 17 : Branched coral reef flat (*Acropora pharaonis*), Port
 Mathurin : Rodriguez
 RO 22 : Reef flat with scattered coral growth, (Inner reef flat),
 Pointe au Sable : Rodriguez
 MAU 34 : Lagoon of Trou aux Biches, - 2m : Mauritius
Alcyonium legitimum Tixier-Durivault, 1970
 RO 51 : Outer slope, reef of Anse aux Anglais, - 20m : Rodriguez
 RO 52 : Passe Grenade, - 18m : Rodriguez

Genus *Cladiella* Gray, 1869

- Cladiella australis* (MacFadyen, 1936)
 MAU 67 : Reef front, La Preneuse : Mauritius
Cladiella ceylonica (Pratt, 1905)
 MAU 29 : Reef front, Trou aux Biches : Mauritius
Cladiella hicksoni (Tixier-Durivault, 1944)
 MAU 3 A : Outer reef flat, Pointe d'Esny : Mauritius
Cladiella krempfi (Hickson, 1919)
 RO 10 : Reef front, Pointe aux Cornes : Rodriguez
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
Cladiella laciniosa (Tixier-Durivault, 1944)
 MAU 3 B : Outer reef flat, Pointe d'Esny : Mauritius
Cladiella latissima (Tixier-Durivault, 1944)
 MAU 26 : Outer reef flat, Trou aux Biches : Mauritius
Cladiella pachyclados (Klunzinger, 1877)
 RO 80 B : Outer slope reef of Quatre Vingt's Brisants, - 20 m :
 Rodriguez
Cladiella ramosa Tixier-Durivault, 1970
 MAU 46 : Bay of Arsenal, - 5 m : Mauritius
 RC 7 : Reef front Anse Tamarins : Rodriguez
Cladiella sphaerophora (Ehrenberg, 1834)
 Rodriguez : in Brüggemann (1879)

Genus *Lobophytum* Marenzeller, 1886

- Lobophytum altum* Tixier-Durivault, 1956
 RO 5 : Compact reef flat (inner reef flat) Anse aux Anglais :
 Rodriguez
Lobophytum batarum Moser, 1919
 MAU 41 : Outer slope, Trou aux Biches, - 20 m : Mauritius

¹ Author's collection.

- Lobophytum compactum* Tixier-Durivault, 1956
 MAU 68 : Outer slope, reef of Flic en Flac, - 15 m : Mauritius
- Lobophytum crassum* Marenzeller, 1886
 REU 172 : Outer slope, reef of cap Lahoussaye - 15 m : Réunion
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1956), Michel (1974)
- Lobophytum crebriplicatum* Marenzeller, 1886
 RO 14 A : Outer slope, reef of Port-Mathurin, - 10 m : Rodriguez
 RO 50 B : Outer slope, reef of Anse aux Anglais, - 10 m : Rodriguez
 REU 173 : Outer slope, reef of cap Lahoussaye, - 15 m : Réunion
 REU 189 B : Outer slope, reef Trois Bassins, - 30 m : Réunion
- Lobophytum hedleyi* Whitelegge, 1897
 RO 39 : Reef flat with microatolls, Port Sud-Est : Rodriguez
- Lobophytum lamarcki* Tixier-Durivault, 1956
 MAU 1 : Outer reef flat, Pointe d'Esny : Mauritius
- Lobophytum mirabile* Tixier-Durivault, 1956
 REU 171 A : Outer slope, reef cap Lahoussaye, - 15 m : Réunion
- Lobophytum patulum* Tixier-Durivault, 1956
 RO 66 B : Passe of Port Sud-Est, - 20 m : Rodriguez
- Lobophytum pauciflorum* (Ehrenberg, 1834)
 MAU 42 : Outer slope, Troux aux Biches, - 20 m : Mauritius
 REU 180 : Volcanic flagstone (outer slope), reef of l'Hermitage,
 - 35 m : Réunion
- Lobophytum robustum* Tixier-Durivault, 1957
 MAU 12 : Backreef channel, Ile aux Aigrettes, - 5 m : Mauritius
- Lobophytum sarcophytoïdes* Moser, 1919
 REU 151 : Reef front of St-Pierre : Réunion
 REU 169 : Outer slope, cap Lahoussaye, - 15 m : Réunion
- Lobophytum schoedei* Moser, 1919
 MAU 58 : Outer slope, reef of Pointe aux Sables, - 10 m : Mauritius
- Lobophytum variatum* Tixier-Durivault, 1957
 REU 155) : Reef front of St-Pierre : Réunion
 REU 156)

Genus *Parerythropodium* Kükenthal, 1916

- Parerythropodium fulvum* (Forsk., 1775)
 RO 59 A : Outer slope, reef of Grande Pointe, - 15 m : Rodriguez

Genus *Sarcophyton* Lesson, 1834

- Sarcophyton crassocaule* Tixier-Durivault, 1946
 RO 16 B : Outer slope, reef of Port-Mathurin, - 15 m : Rodriguez
 RO 40 B : Outer reef flat, Port Sud-Est : Rodriguez
 RO 48 A : Outer slope, Middle ground reef, - 8 m : Rodriguez
- Sarcophyton glaucum* (Quoy et Gaimard, 1833)
 REU 189 A : Outer slope, reef of Trois Bassins, - 30 m : Réunion
 RO 40 A : Reef flat with microatolls, Port Sud-Est : Rodriguez
 RO 46 : Outer slope, Port-Mathurin, - 15 m : Rodriguez
 RO 58 : Outer slope, reef of Grande Pointe, - 15 m : Rodriguez
- Sarcophyton latum* (Dana 1846)
 Rodriguez : in Brüggemann (1879)
- Sarcophyton molle* Tixier-Durivault, 1946
 REU 160 : Volcanic flagstone (outer slope), reef of l'Hermitage,
 - 25 m : Réunion

- REU 161 : Volcanic flagstone (outer slope), reef of l'Hermitage,
- 30 m : Réunion
- REU 184 : Volcanic flagstone (outer slope), reef of La Saline,
- 35 m : Réunion
- Sarcophyton regulare* Tixier-Durivault, 1958
- REU 170 : Outer slope, reef of cap Lahoussaye, - 15 m : Réunion
- RO 57 : Outer slope, reef of Grande Pointe, - 15 m : Rodriguez
- Sarcophyton solidum* Tixier-Durivault, 1958
- REU 182 B : Volcanic flagstone (outer slope), reef of l'Hermitage,
- 35 m : Réunion
- Sarcophyton spongiosum* Thomson and Dean, 1931
- REU 153 : Lagoon of St-Pierre : Réunion
- Sarcophyton stolidum* Verseveldt, 1971
- MAU 40 : Outer slope, Trou aux Biches, - 20 m : Mauritius
- Sarcophyton trocheliophorum* Marenzeller, 1886
- Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Genus *Sinularia* May 1898

- Sinularia arborea* Verseveldt, 1971
- MAU 40 : Outer slope, reef of Trou aux Biches, - 25 m : Mauritius
- Sinularia crassa* Tixier-Durivault, 1945
- MAU 2 : Outer reef flat, Pointe d'Esny : Mauritius
- Sinularia densa* (Whitelegge, 1897)
- MAU 66 : Reef front, La Preneuse : Mauritius
- REU 179 : Outer slope, reef of St-Gilles, - 25 m : Réunion
- RO 14 B : Outer slope, reef of Port-Mathurin, - 10 m : Rodriguez
- Sinularia dura* (Pratt, 1903)
- MAU 17 C : Outer slope, Ile de La Passe, - 10 m : Mauritius
- Sinularia erecta* Tixier-Durivault, 1945
- MAU 17 A : Outer slope, Ile de La Passe, - 10 m : Mauritius
- Sinularia grayi* Tixier-Durivault, 1945
- REU 159 : Outer slope, reef of l'Hermitage, - 20 m : Réunion
- RO 56 : Outer slope, reef of Grand Baie, - 18 m : Rodriguez
- Sinularia leptoclados* (Ehrenberg, 1834)
- RO 65 B : Passe of Port Sud-Est, - 8 m : Rodriguez
- Sinularia macropodia* (Hickson and Hiles, 1900)
- REU 181 : Volcanic flagstone (outer slope), reef of l'Hermitage, -
35 m : Réunion
- RO 49 : Outer slope, reef of Middle Ground, - 10 m : Rodriguez
- Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
- Sinularia marenzelleri* (Wright and Studer, 1889)
- MAU 16 : Channel of Mahebourg, - 20 m : Mauritius
- RO 48 B : Outer slope, reef of Middle Ground, - 10 m : Rodriguez
- Sinularia pedunculata* Tixier-Durivault, 1945
- MAU 37 : Outer slope, reef of Trou aux Biches, - 20 m : Mauritius
- RO 16 A : Outer slope, reef of Port-Mathurin, - 10 m : Rodriguez
- Sinularia polydactyla* Tixier-Durivault, 1945
- MAU 22 A : Outer slope, Horseshoe reef, - 8 m : Mauritius
- MAU 45 : Bay of Arsenal, - 3 m : Mauritius
- MAU 49 : Outer slope, reef of Trou aux Biches, - 28 m : Mauritius
- MAU 54 : Reef front, Pointe au Sable : Mauritius
- REU 150 : Reef front of St-Pierre : Réunion
- REU 178 : Outer slope, reef of St-Gilles, - 22m : Réunion

- REU 154 : Lagoon of St-Pierre : Réunion
 RO 60 B : Passe of Grand-Bassin, - 12 m : Rodriguez
Sinularia querciformis (Pratt, 1903)
 RO 66 A : Passe of Port Sud-Est, - 8 m : Rodriguez
Sinularia rigida var. *amboinensis* (Burchardt, 1902)
 Réunion : in Tixier-Durivault (1972)
Sinularia robusta MacFadyen, 1936
 MAU 30 : Reef front, reef of Trou aux Biches : Mauritius
Sinularia simpsoni Tixier-Durivault, 1945
 REU 152 : Lagoon, reef of St-Pierre : Réunion
 RO 50 A : Outer slope, reef of Anse aux Anglais, - 6 m : Rodriguez
 RO 53 B : Outer slope, reef of Port-Mathurin, - 12 m : Rodriguez
Sinularia triaena Kolonko, 1926
 MAU 39 : Outer slope, reef of Trou aux Biches, - 20 m : Mauritius
 Réunion : in Tixier-Durivault (1972)
Sinularia venusta Tixier-Durivault, 1970
 REU 158 : Outer slope, reef of Boucan Canot, - 15 m : Réunion
Sinularia whiteleggei Lüttschwagger, 1914
 RO 13 : Reef front, reef of Pointe aux Cornes : Rodriguez
 RO 53 A : Outer slope, reef of Port-Mathurin, - 12 m : Rodriguez
 MAU 4 : Outer reef flat, reef of Pointe d'Esny : Mauritius
 MAU 5 : Outer reef flat, reef of Pointe d'Esny : Mauritius
 MAU 10 : Backreef channel of Ile aux Aigrettes, - 5 m : Mauritius
 MAU 17 B : Reef front, outer slope, reef of Ile de la Passe, 0 - 6 m :
 Mauritius

Family NEPTHEIDAE Gray, 1862

Genus *Nephtea* Savigny, 1817

- Nephtea cupressiformis* Kükenthal, 1904
 RO 71 : Passe of Port Sud-Est, - 20 m : Rodriguez

Genus *Roxasia* Tixier-Durivault and Prevorsek, 1957

- Roxasia gravieri* (Kükenthal, 1910)
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974), Tixier-Durivault
 and d'Hondt 1973 (1974)
Roxasia hirsuta Tixier-Durivault and Prevorsek, 1960
 REU 188 : Volcanic flagstone (outer slope), reef of Pointe des
 Aigrettes, - 40 m : Réunion
Roxasia mirabilis (Henderson, 1909)
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Genus *Stereonephthya* Kükenthal, 1905

- Stereonephthya unicolor* (Gray, 1862)
 REU 157 : Outer slope, reef of Boucan-Canot, - 15 m : Réunion
Stereonephthya sp.
 RO 80 A : Outer slope, reef of Quatre-Vingts Brisants, - 20 m :
 Rodriguez

Genus *Dendronephthya*

- Dendronephthya divaricata* (Gray)
 Mauritius : in Thomson and MacKinnon (1910), Michel (1974)

Family XENIIDAE Ehrenberg, 1828

Genus *Anthelia* Lamarck, 1816

- Anthelia desjardiana* Templeton, 1841
 Mauritius : in Milne-Edwards and Haime (1857), Michel (1974)
Anthelia flava (May, 1899)
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Genus *Cespitularia* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1850

- Cespitularia densa* Tixier-Durivault, 1966
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
Cespitularia mantoni Hickson, 1931
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Genus *Sympodium* Ehrenberg, 1834

- Sympodium coeruleum* Ehrenberg, 1834
 MAU 6 : Outer reef flat, reef of Pointe d'Esny : Mauritius

Genus *Xenia* Lamarck, 1816

- Xenia blumi* Schenk, 1896
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
Xenia distorta Tixier-Durivault, 1966
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
Xenia elongata Dana, 1846
 REU 149 : Reef front, reef of St-Pierre : Réunion
Xenia florida (Lesson, 1826)
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
Xenia garciae Bourne, 1894
 Mauritius : in Michel (1974)
Xenia plicata Schenk, 1896
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
Xenia ternatana Schenk, 1896
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972)

Order COENOTHECALIA Bourne, 1895

Family HELIOPORIDAE Moseley, 1876

Genus *Heliopora* Blainville, 1830

- Heliopora coerulea* (Pallas, 1766)
 RO 110 : Outer reef flat, reef of Grande Pointe : Rodriguez
 RO 302 : Outer slope, reef of Quatre-Vingts Brisants, - 12 m :
 Rodriguez
 MAU 155 : Outer slope, reef of Ile Plate, - 8 m : Mauritius
 MAU 404 : Lagoon, reef Pointe Bambou : Mauritius

Order GORGONACEA Lamouroux, 1816

Suborder SCLERAXONIA Studer, 1887

Family SUBERGORGIIIDAE Gray, 1859

Genus *Subergorgia* Gray, 1857

- Subergorgia mollis* (Nutting, 1910)
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Subergorgia reticulata (Ellis and Solander, 1786)
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
Subergorgia suberosa (Pallas, 1766)
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Family CORALLIIDAE Lamouroux, 1812

Genus *Corallium* Cuvier, 1798
Corallium stylasteroides Ridley, 1882
 Mauritius : in Ridley (1882a), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Family MELITHAEIDAE Gray, 1870

Genus *Melithaea* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1857
Melithaea ochracea (Lamarck, 1816)
 Mauritius : in Michelin (1845), Michel (1974)

Genus *Wrightella* Gray, 1870
Wrightella coccinea (Ellis and Solander, 1786)
 REU 185 A : Volcanic flagstone (outer slope), reef of Pointe aux
 Aigrettes, - 40 m : Réunion
 Mauritius : in Ellis and Solander (1786), Milne-Edwards and Haime
 (1857)

Family PARASIDIDAE Aurivillius, 1931

Genus *Parisis* Verrill, 1864
Parisis fruticosa Verrill, 1864
 Mauritius : in Wright and Studer (1889), Tixier-Durivault (1972),
 Michel (1974)

Suborder HOLAXONIA Studer, 1887

Family ACANTHOGORGIIDAE Gray, 1859

Genus *Acanthogorgia* Verrill, 1868
Acanthogorgia spinosa Hiles
 Mauritius : in Thomson and Russel (1909), Michel (1974)

Genus *Anthogorgia* Verrill, 1868
Anthogorgia divaricata Verrill, 1868
 Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Family PARAMURICEIDAE Bayer, 1956

Genus *Muricella* Verrill, 1869
Muricella grandis Nutting, 1910
 Mauritius : in Stiasny (1940), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
Muricella perramosa Ridley, 1882
 Mauritius : in Ridley (1882c), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
Muricella rubra Thomson, 1905
 Mauritius : in Stiasny (1940), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Muricella tenera Ridley, 1884
Mauritius : in Stiasny (1940), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Genus *Paracis* Kükenthal, 1919

Paracis orientalis (Ridley, 1882)
Mauritius : in Wright and Studer (1889), Tixier-Durivault (1972),
Michel (1974)

Genus *Villogorgia* Duchassaing and Michelotti, 1860

Villogorgia alternans (Wright and Studer, 1889)
Mauritius : in Stiasny (1940), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
Villogorgia ceylonensis (Thomson and Henderson, 1905)
REU 185 B : Volcanic flagstone (outer slope), reef of Pointe aux
Aigrettes, - 40 m : Réunion
Villogorgia mauritienis Ridley, 1882
Mauritius : in Ridley (1882b), Stiasny (1940), Tixier-Durivault (1972),
Michel (1974)

Family PLEXAURIDAE Gray, 1859

Genus *Echinogorgia* Kölliker, 1865

Echinogorgia lami Stiasny, 1940
Mauritius : in Stiasny (1940), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
Echinogorgia pinnata Studer, 1878
Mauritius : in Studer (1878), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Genus *Leptogorgia* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1857

Leptogorgia boryana Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1857
Réunion : in Milne-Edwards and Haime (1957)

Family ELLISELLIDAE Gray, 1859

Genus *Ellisella* Gray, 1868

Ellisella candida (Ridley, 1882)
Réunion : in Tixier-Durivault (1972)
Mauritius : in Ridley (1882a), Michel (1974) as *Verrucella candida*,
Tixier-Durivault (1972)
Ellisella laevis (Verrill, 1865)
Réunion : in Tixier-Durivault (1972)
Ellisella ramosa Simpson, 1910
Réunion : in Tixier-Durivault (1972)
Ellisella vughani Stiasny, 1940
Mauritius : in Stiasny (1940), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Genus *Junceella* Valenciennes, 1855

Junceella juncea (Pallas, 1766)
REU 185 C : Volcanic flagstone (outer slope), reef of Pointe aux
Aigrettes, - 40 m : Réunion
Mauritius : in Simpson (1910), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)
Junceella vinem Valenciennes, 1855
Réunion : in Tixier-Durivault (1972), Milne-Edwards and Haime (1857)
Junceella caliculata Valenciennes, 1855
Réunion : in Milne-Edwards and Haime (1857)

Genus *Nicella* Gray, 1870*Nicella carinata* Nutting, 1970

Mauritius : in Stiasny (1940), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Nicella dichotoma (Gray, 1859)Mauritius : in Gray (1859), (1870), Simpson (1910), Stiasny (1940),
Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)*Nicella granifera* (Kölliker, 1865)

Mauritius : in Stiasny (1940), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Genus *Verrucella* Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1857*Verrucella flexuosa* Klunzinger, 1877Mauritius : in Klunzinger (1877), Thomson and MacKinnon (1910),
Michel (1974)*Verrucella verriculata* (Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1857)Mauritius : in Milne-Edwards and Haime (1857), Lamarck (1816), Michel
(1974), Tixier-Durivault (1972)

Family ISIDIDAE Lamouroux, 1812

Genus *Isis* Linnaeus, 1766*Isis hippuris* (Linnaeus, 1766)Mauritius : in Michelin (1845), Dana (1846), Milne-Durivault and
Haime (1857), Michel (1974)Genus *Keratoisis* Wright, 1869*Keratoisis grayi* Wright, 1869

Mauritius : in Michel (1974)

Family PRIMNOIDAE Gray, 1857

Subfamily PRIMNOINAE Gray, 1857

Genus *Callogorgia* Gray, 1858*Callogorgia flabellum* (Ehrenberg, 1834)

Mauritius : in Stiasny (1940), Tixier-Durivault (1972), Michel (1974)

Genus *Pseudoplumarella* Kükenthal, 1915*Pseudoplumarella plumatilis* (Milne-Edwards and Haime, 1857)

Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1972)

Réunion : in Milne-Edwards and Haime (1857), Tixier-Durivault (1972)

Subfamily CALYPTROPHORINAE Gray, 1870

Genus *Calyptrophora**Calyptrophora japonica* Gray, 1886

Réunion : in Tixier-Durivault (1972)

Order PENNATULACEA Verrill, 1865

Suborder SUBSELLIFLORAE Kükenthal, 1915

Family VIRGULARIIDAE Verrill, 1868

Genus *Virgularia* Lamarck, 1816*Virgularia densa* Tixier-Durivault, 1966

Mauritius : in Tixier-Durivault (1966), (1972), Michel (1974)

Conclusions

From the 112 species listed in this paper, 76 are known from Mauritius, 32 from Réunion, and 27 from Rodriguez. Rather than to a greater diversity of Octocorallia biota, the greater abundance of species in Mauritius must be attributed to a better knowledge from the numerous former records. The lack of affinity of Octocorallia species between the three islands (only 8 species in common for Mauritius and Réunion, 7 Mauritius-Rodriguez, 6 Réunion-Rodriguez, and 2 for the three islands), must be chiefly ascribed to the lack of data in this part of western Indian Ocean. In the meantime it should be observed that more than 70% of scleractinian corals (more than 120 species belonging 55 genera) are common to Mauritius, Rodriguez and Réunion.

If it is too early to compare the Octocorallia distribution with the scleractinian corals, it is a good argument for carrying on ecological and systematical investigations of both in the Archipelago.

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