

Goniopora Coral

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Goniopora Coral Latest News

Recently, scientists have reported that a combination of extreme heat stress and a rare Black band disease has wiped out 75 per cent of Goniopora coral colonies at a site on the Great Barrier Reef.

About Goniopora Coral

- It is also known as **flowerpot or daisy coral**, is a type of hard, soft coral belonging to the Poritidae family.
- It is appreciated for its beautiful appearance as it possesses **unique polyps that resemble flower petals**.
- **Appearance:** Colonies consist of **small branching columns**, usually oval in transverse section.
- **Size:** Goniopora polyps can range from a few to several centimeters in diameter.
- **Habitat:** It typically inhabits **lagoons and turbid reefs** and are considered thermally tolerant.

- Goniopora are a **photosynthetic coral** and derive some of their nutritional requirements from light.
- **Symbiotic Relationship:** They have a **symbiotic relationship with dinoflagellates** called zooxanthellae that live in the flesh of the coral.
- Goniopora can thrive in a wide range of lighting.
- **Feeding:** It is a **predatory coral**, meaning it obtains some of its nutrients by capturing small organisms in the water.

What is Black Band Disease?

- It is a **bacterial necrotic infection** that invades living coral.
- It **forms a black band** that crosses the infected coral, usually killing the colony.
- It is common in Caribbean reefs and **rare in Australian waters**.
- It is often linked to pollution or nutrient runoff.

Source: **DTE**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/goniopora-coral/>

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