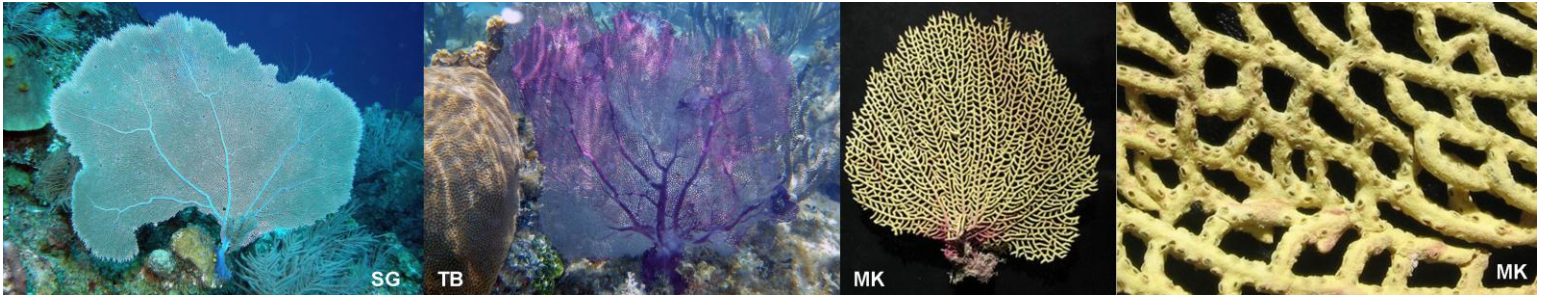


PICTURE GUIDE TO OCTOCORAL GENERA OF GLOVERS REEF ATOLL



Gorgonia SEA FANS

flat, web-like fans growing in single planes



Briareum SEA FINGERS

unbranched stalks rising from same base, or encrusting; purplish rind; "fuzzy" if polyps expanded



Plexaurella SLIT-PORE SEA RODS

tall, bushy; apertures slit-like or elliptical; polyp rims (calices) flat or slightly raised



Plexaura SEA RODS

bushy, candelabra-shaped; branched sections usually in one plane; calices flat or slightly raised



Pseudoplexaura POROUS SEA RODS

tall, bushy; branches dichotomous; apertures pore-like, round-oval; calices flat

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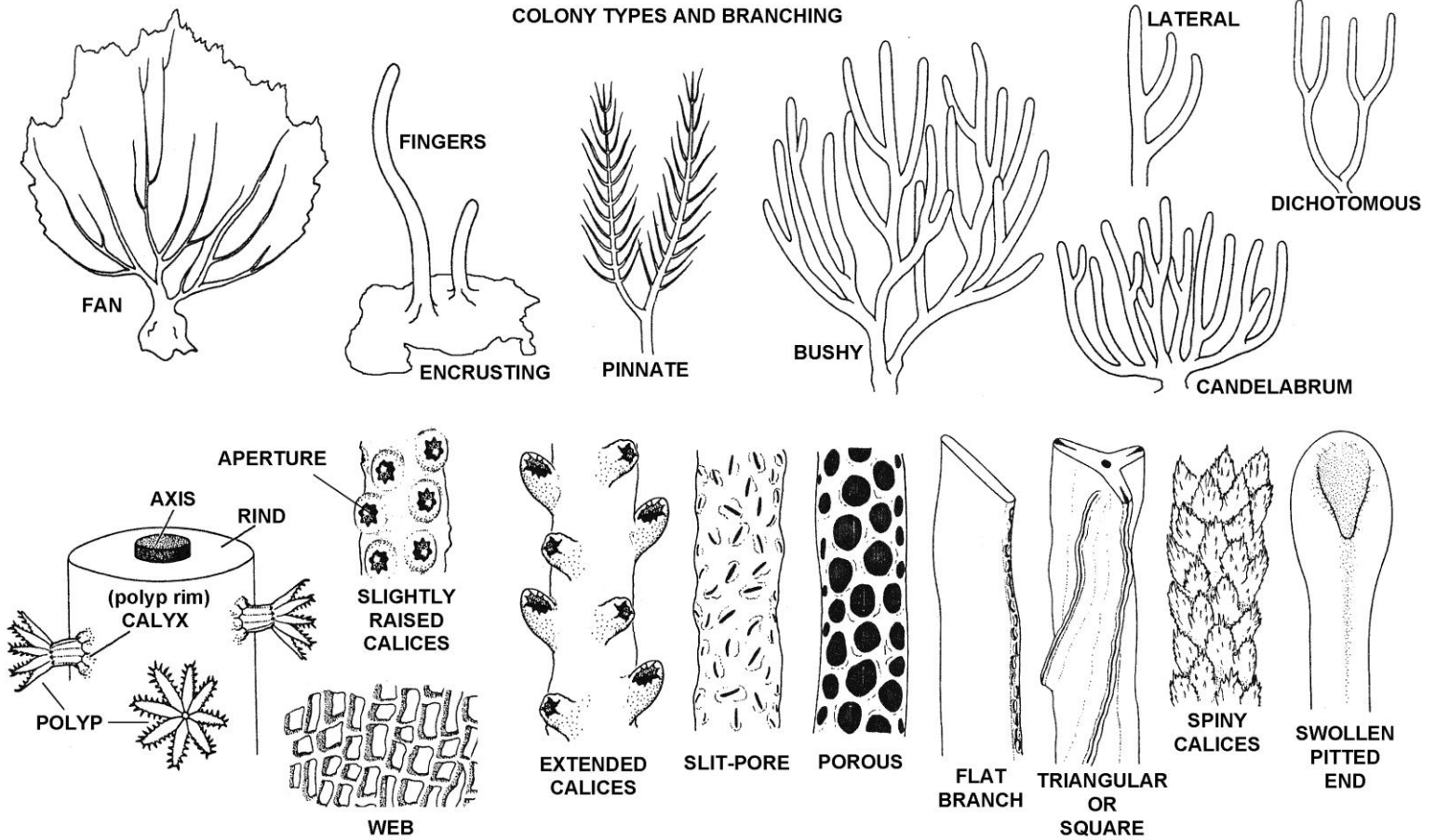


Eunicea KNOBBY SEA RODS bushy or scraggly; usually candelabrum-shaped; round branches; calices much extended



Pseudoptergorgia SEA PLUMES tall, bushy, feathery plumes; short pinnate branchlets in one plane

COLONY TYPES AND BRANCHING



PICTURE GUIDE TO OCTOCORAL GENERA OF GLOVERS REEF ATOLL



This guide will help you recognize the genera of octocoral sea fans, rods and plumes known from Glover's Reef. The genera can usually be recognized but it is difficult and often impossible to distinguish between similar species in-situ or strictly from photographs. For more detailed descriptions and information on habitat and distribution, go to "*Coral Reef Identification: Florida, Caribbean, Bahamas*" by Paul Humann & Ned DeLoach, New World Publications, or the web site "*CORALPEDIA*" <http://coralpedia.bio.warwick.ac.uk/>.

Species known from Glover's Reef: *Gorgonia ventalina* (Common sea fan), *Briareum asbestinum* (Corky sea finger), *Eunicea mammosa* (Swollen-knob candelabrum), *Plexaura homomalla* (Black sea rod), *Plexaurella* sp. (Slit-pore sea rod), *Pseudoplexaura* sp. (Porous sea rod), *Pseudopterogorgia bipinnata* (Bipinnate sea plume).

Genera probably present at Glover's Atoll but not pictured here because they haven't yet been recorded include:

Muriceopsis (stiff branchlets, close-set calices)
Muricea (spiny, triangular calices with pointed hoods directed upward)
Pterogorgia (branch cross-sections triangular, square or flat)
Iciligorgia (branch ends enlarged, with shallow pit)

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Created for WCS by former Glover's Reef Research Station Manager **Dr. Tom Bright**

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
GLOVER'S REEF RESEARCH STATION, BELIZE

