**UF Moorea Data**

**Branching Coral *Protocol***

**Title:** Branching Coral Surveys on Long Term Monitored Reefs

**Overview:** The goal of these surveys is to quantify the volume of living branching coral, and to facilitate the evaluation of habitat quality for fishes.

**General Procedure:**

A snorkeler approaches a reef and measures any *Pocillopora*, *Acropora*, *Porites* *irregularis* (branching corals). Corals are measured with a lower size limit usually around 1 x 1 x 1 cm. Coral colonies are identified to genus, and the length, perpendicular width and maximum height of the whole colony are measured. For some reefs, coral colonies are difficult to distinguish especially if there are areas of the colony that are dead and other parts are living. Some of these corals are measured as an aggregate (especially *Pocillopora*) including both the live and dead parts in estimates of live coral. For other colonies that are similarly difficult to distinguish, only the portions that were alive are measured. Percent live coral cover for each “entity” measured, colony or aggregate, are based on visual estimates.

**Materials:**

 Slate with a ruler attached to it or transect tape

**Solutions/Reagents** (if applicable):

NA

**Procedure:**

 NA

**Calculations:** NA

**Author:**

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