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Pacific Islands Region

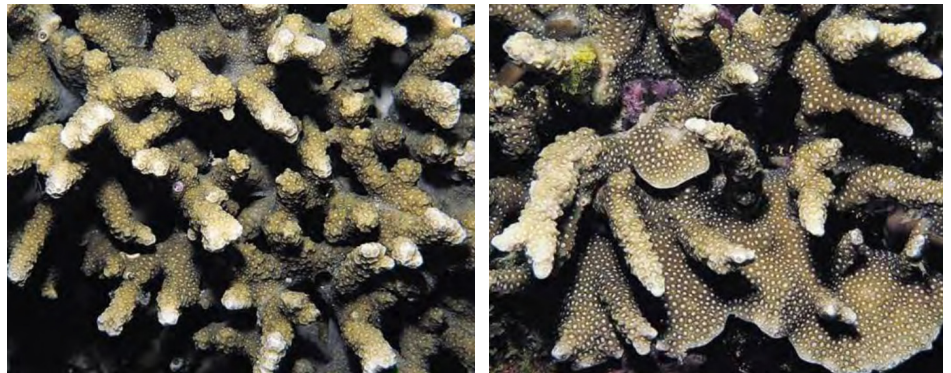
**corals**

# *Porites* *napopora*

## :: Biological Information

### MORPHOLOGY

Colonies of *Porites napopora* have irregular clumps of tapered, irregularly fused branches and are brown in color with white corallite centers.



Photos copyright: J.E.N. Veron

### REPRODUCTION

The reproductive characteristics of *Porites napopora* have not been determined. Other species of *Porites* have been described as gonochoristic (individual colonies have either male or female gametes, not both) broadcast spawners (expelling gametes for external fertilization), gonochoric (individual colonies have either male or female gametes, not both) brooders (expelling sperm but egg fertilization is internal), or hermaphroditic (having both male and female gametes) brooders.

## :: Spatial Information

### GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

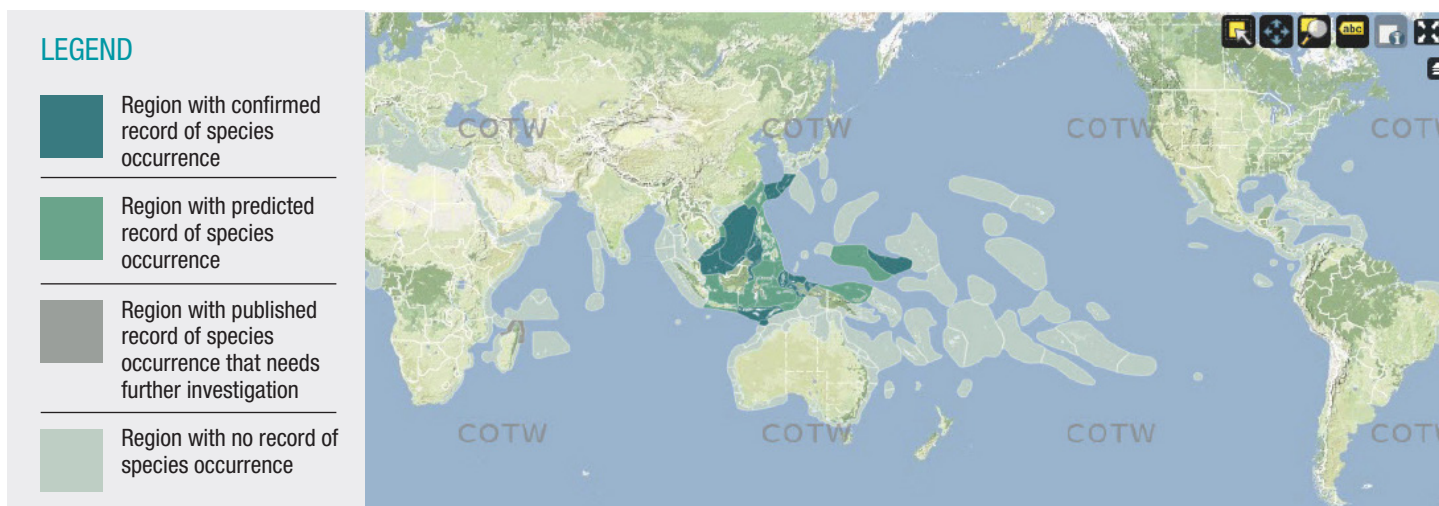
Based on confirmed observations and strong predictions of occurrence in areas that have not yet been surveyed sufficiently, *Porites napopora* is likely distributed mostly within the Coral Triangle area (the Philippines to Timor Leste and east to the Solomon Islands), as well as adjacent areas throughout the South China Sea, southern Japan, and parts of Micronesia.

#### For more information contact:

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Veron JEN, Stafford-Smith MG, Turak E and DeVantier LM (in prep.) Corals of the World [www.coralsoftheworld.com](http://www.coralsoftheworld.com)

## OCCURRENCE IN U.S. JURISDICTIONS

*Porites napopora* is not yet reported in any U.S. Pacific jurisdictions.

## HABITAT TYPES AND DEPTH

*Porites napopora* occurs in at least upper reef slopes, mid-slopes, lower reef crests, reef flats, and lagoons in depths of 3 to 15 meters.

## :: Demographic Information

### RELATIVE LOCALIZED ABUNDANCE

Relative localized abundance refers to how commonly a species is observed on surveys in a localized area. Veron (2014) reports that *Porites napopora* occupied 2.6 percent of 2,984 dive sites sampled in 30 ecoregions of the Indo-Pacific. It was given an abundance rating on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) at each site where it occurred, based on how common it was at that site. *Porites napopora* had a mean abundance rating of 1.79. Based on this semi-quantitative system, the species' abundance was characterized as "uncommon."

### ABSOLUTE OVERALL ABUNDANCE

Absolute overall abundance refers to a rough qualitative minimum estimate of the total number of colonies of a species that currently exist throughout its range. These estimates were calculated based on results from Richards *et al.* (2008) and Veron (2014). The absolute abundance of *Porites napopora* is likely at least millions of colonies.

## :: Why is this Species Threatened?

*Porites napopora* is susceptible to the three major threats identified for corals including ocean warming, disease, and ocean acidification, as well as many of the other threats to corals. A significant proportion of its current known geographic range is within the Coral Triangle area. This area is projected to have the most rapid and severe impacts from climate change and localized human impacts for coral reefs over the 21st century. Multiple ocean warming events have already occurred within the western equatorial Pacific (which includes the Coral Triangle area) that suggest future ocean warming events may be more severe than average in this part of the world. A range constrained mostly to this particular geographic area that is likely to experience severe and increasing threats indicates that a high proportion of the population of this species is likely to be exposed to those threats over the foreseeable future. This, in combination with its other biological, demographic, and spatial characteristics, contributes to a risk of extinction within the foreseeable future for *Porites napopora*.

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### Literature Cited

- Richards, Z. T., M. J. H. van Oppen, C. C. Wallace, B. L. Willis, and D. J. Miller. 2008. Some Rare Indo-Pacific Coral Species Are Probable Hybrids. PLoS ONE 3(9):e3240.
- Veron, J. E. N. 2014. Results of an update of the Corals of the World Information Base for the Listing Determination of 66 Coral Species under the Endangered Species Act. Report to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, Honolulu.

