

A review of current knowledge on reproductive and larval processes of deep-sea corals

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Terminology

<i>Colonial</i>	Coral is made up of many genetically identical polyps
<i>Solitary</i>	Coral is a single freeliving polyp
<i>Gametogenesis</i>	The formation and development of gametes within the mesentery tissues
<i>Spermatogenesis</i>	The formation and development of male gametes within the mesentery tissues
<i>Oogenesis</i>	The formation and development of female gametes within the mesentery tissues
<i>Spermatocyst</i>	Membrane bound sack that contains developing sperm
<i>Sexuality</i>	In this context, whether corals have separate sexes or are dual sex
<i>Gonochoric</i>	Species that have single sexed, i.e. male and female, colonies
<i>Hermaphroditic</i>	Species that undergo both spermatogenesis and oogenesis within a single colony
<i>Sexual Maturity</i>	When an individual has the potential to undergo successful reproduction
<i>Seasonality</i>	Study of whether a species undergoes gametogenesis and spawning/planulation within a specific timeframe
<i>Aperiodic</i>	Gametogenesis and spawning/planulation occur on non defined cycles, i.e. year-round
<i>Periodic</i>	Gametogenesis and spawning/planulation occur on defined cycles, i.e. yearly, bi-yearly etc.
<i>Spawning</i>	The release of gametes into the water column
<i>Brooding</i>	Internal fertilization and larval development within or on the tissues of the coral for a predetermined period
<i>Planulation</i>	Release of larvae from brooding coral species
<i>Fertilization</i>	The joining of eggs and sperm to create larvae
<i>Larval Development</i>	The process of development from fertilization through settling
<i>Lecithotrophic</i>	Larvae that have built in nutrition and therefore do not feed or have minimal nutrition
<i>Planktotrophic</i>	Larvae that require nutrition from the water column to survive
<i>Demersal Crawler</i>	Larvae that do not have a swimming phase, instead crawl along the benthic environment
<i>Oocytes per polyp</i>	Number of total oocytes found within a single polyp
<i>Potential Relative Fecundity</i>	Number of total mature oocytes found within a single polyp
<i>Potential Colony Fecundity</i>	Potential number of total oocytes found within a whole colony (whether colonial or solitary)