

Cnidaria Lab – The Anthozoans

Name: _____

This lab is to help familiarize you further with the ***Anthozoans***. This class includes the corals, sea fans, and anemones. You will need to make sketches of each organism and answer questions at each station.

- **DO NOT THROW, SHAKE, OR MISHANDLE ANY SPECIMENS. Many of these specimens are very fragile.**
- **Do not open any jars. Leave them sealed to preserve it.**

Station 1: Examine the preserved specimen of the Brain Coral, (*Favites sp.*) Sketch it below.

Read the information provided about the Brain Coral.

1. Where can this type of coral be found? _____
2. How do most brain corals reproduce? _____
3. Why should we NOT harvest this coral (or any coral for that matter)? _____

Station 2: Examine the preserved specimen of the Purple Sea Fan, *Gorgonia ventalina*. Sketch it below.

4. This fan is most commonly purple in color, what other colors can they be? _____
5. What does the Coral Reef Preserve Act prohibit? _____

Station 3: Examine the preserved specimen of the Mushroom Coral, (*Fungia Sp.*) Sketch it below.

6. These corals can actually MOVE! How much per day? _____
7. What are some other common names these corals are known by? _____

Station 4: Examine the preserved specimen of the Rose Coral, *Trachyphyllia radiata*. Sketch it below.

8. Where are these corals found? _____
9. What is the status of this coral according to the IUCN Red List? _____

Station 5: Examine the preserved specimen of the Elkhorn Coral, *Acropora palmata*. Sketch it below.

10. What are the three species of the Acropora genus that are found in the Atlantic/Caribbean region?

11. Why do Acroporids need sunlight? _____
12. List some causes of coral bleaching. _____

Station 6: Examine the preserved specimen of the Sea Anemone, *Metridium*. Sketch it below.

13. In some species of sea anemones, algae lives inside it. The algae gives the anemone their colors, but what else does it do for the anemone? _____
14. The anemone tentacles are coated with a mucous. What is the purpose of this mucous?

15. How are some other fish able to be “immune” to the stings of the anemone?

Station 7: Examine the preserved specimen of the Brush Coral, *Acropora hyacinthus*. Sketch it below.

16. What is the literal meaning of *Acropora*? _____
17. Is this type of coral hermatypic or ahermatypic? _____
18. Some corals obtain nourishment from zooplankton that they capture. However, staghorn corals rely almost entirely on the zooxanthellae, the algae, for food. How does this contribute to their environmental sensitivities?
HINT: Read the section under “Threats”.
