

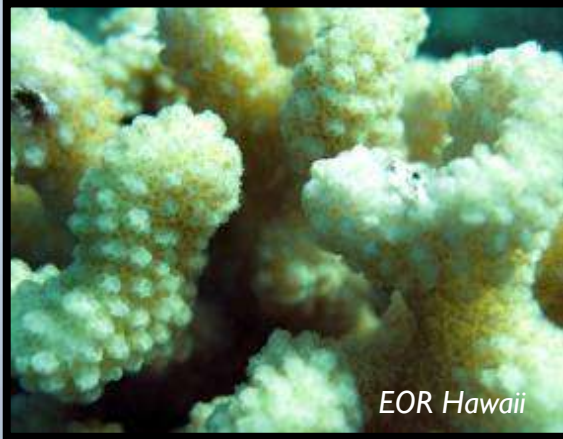
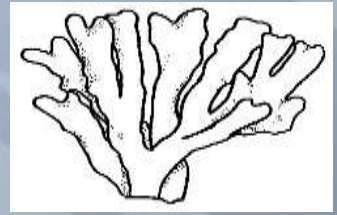


# Coral Types

Learn how to identify coral growth forms



# Branching Corals



Discrete, branching coral heads



(*Psammacora*)



(*Pocillopora*)



# Staghorn Corals



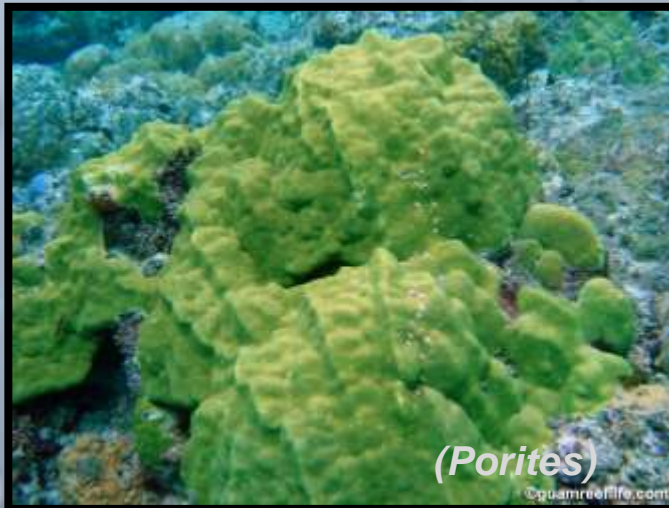
- Distinct branches with sharp-pointing tips
- Pronounced corallites





# Massive Corals

- Surface smooth, ball, or boulder-shaped
- Crowded, small polyps
- Forms mounds and encrustations





# Encrusting Corals

Covers substrate (sea floor surface) in sheet formation adhering to hard surfaces  
“Puke on a rock”





# Plate/ Pillar Corals

- Extended pillar structures
- Upward growth, not widespread branching



*Porites rus*

# Foliose Corals

(*Pavona*)

- Steep-sided ridges
- Polyps in valleys
- Aka “lettuce corals”





# Soft Corals

- Have feathery tentacles
- Do not have hard skeleton – have a flexible skeleton
- Flowy appearance in water



(*Sinularia*)  
equamreef.com



(*Sinularia*)  
equamreef.com



(*Sarcophyton*)  
equamreef.com