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ISSN 2039-0394 (Print Edition)
ISSN 2039-0408 (Online Edition)

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world biodiversity association onlus

Biodiversity Journal

DECEMBER 2017, 8 (4): 869-962

FOR NATURALISTIC RESEARCH AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Acropora and *Dascyllus aruanus* (Linnaeus, 1758) - Jolly Buoy, Andaman Islands

BIODIVERSITY JOURNAL
2017, 8 (4): 869-962

Quaternly scientific journal
edited by Edizioni Danaus,
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Official authorization no. 40 (28.12.2010)

ISSN 2039-0394 (Print Edition)
ISSN 2039-0408 (Online Edition)

Coral Reefs. Coral reefs are underwater ecosystems typical of tropical seas and oceans. They are constituted by and increase thanks to the sedimentation of the calcareous skeletons of the corals, polypoid animals belonging to the Class Antozoa, phylum Cnidaria. The life of the small polyps that build coral reefs is bound to microscopic algae, the Zooxantellae, that live in symbiosis within them and from which they gain oxygen and precious substances for their nourishment. In addition, the polyps give to the Zooxantellae toxic substances derived from their metabolism. Coral reefs represent a submerged world rich in biodiversity. The unique characteristics of the numerous marine habitats that are created inside the reefs allow life to thrive to thousands of species of fish, crustaceans, molluscs, sponges, algae, echinoderms and other marine organisms. Currently, coral reefs are threatened by human activity and the global climate change, with enormous risks for the survival of entire natural ecosystems.

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