



FACTSHEET

# Cauliflower Coral



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**Common Name:** Cauliflower Coral

**Scientific Name:** *Pocillopora damicornis*

**Conservation Status:** Listed as Least Concern under ICUN (2014). The waters around Rottnest Island are a designated Marine Reserve. Also, some parts of Rottnest' coral reefs are included the Marine Sanctuary Zones shown in the Rottnest Island Marine Management Strategy (2007).

**Size:** Colony size can vary from 2.5 cm to several metres across.

## Description:

Cauliflower Coral has sturdy branches which are very close together when it lives in places where there are waves. When it lives in deeper water or more sheltered areas away from waves, it has thinner branches which are more spread out.

Colonies around Rottnest are usually pink or light brown/cream. It is a common coral which lives in most tropical and subtropical waters around the world. This species is considered to be a main reef builder and is usually found at shallow depths of 1-15m.

## Threats:

- Human activity (inappropriate boating, fishing and diving practices)
- Pollution
- Climate change causing increased water temperature, low salinity.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Cauliflower Coral has inch-long tentacles which it uses to sting other corals in its reach.

