Please welcome your MAAST Board of Directors for 2013!! We owe such appreciation to all of you for stepping up to serve MAAST! We truly cannot thank you enough!

2013-2014 Board of Directors

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- First Quarter Edition 2013
- The Importance of Captive Breeding and Propagation.
- Species Spotlight
- POTM & POTQ
- Sponsors Spotlight
- Become a Charter Member

Picture Of The Month

- January~Ace Shed-Hobogato

Febuary~ Donna Smith- Fracture

- March- Jack -Rocketeer

- Tank of the Quarter- Ace Shed

Species Spotlight

Classification: Zoanthus
Coral Type : Soft Corals
Common Name: Zoanthids
Alt Common Name: Zoas, Zoos, Mat Coral, Carpet,Coral, Sea Mat, Polyps
Care Difficulty: 2/10
Temperature Range: **76◦F - 82◦F**
Lighting Requirements : Low to High

Aggression:

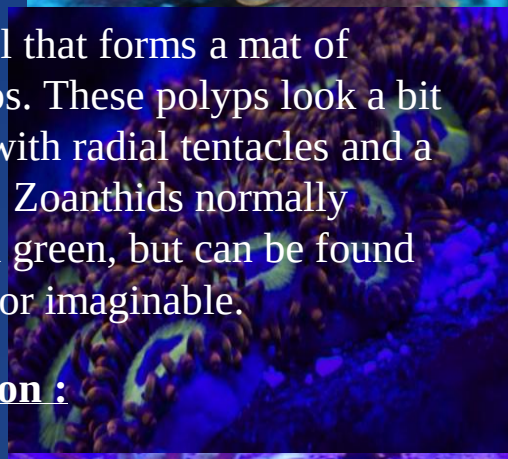
Low, will be attacked and killed by most other corals. If kept with sps, it would be a good idea to surround sps with loose rocks, and remove when the zoanthids get too close. Due to their rate of growth, they can sometimes overwhelm such corals.
Hardiness: A very hardy coral that is great for beginners.

Growth Pattern :

Grow and spread most successfully on rock or skeletons of dead corals, however they can grow on sand and the glass walls of your tank too.
Nutrition: Mainly zooxanthellate, light and dissolved nutrients is all that is needed for zoanthids to grow well.
Supplements Required: None needed

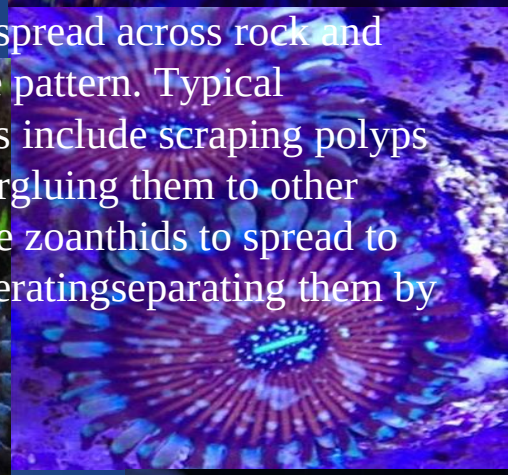
Additional Information :

A soft, colonial coral that forms a mat of small, circular polyps. These polyps look a bit like tiny anemones with radial tentacles and a small central mouth. Zoanthids normally appear in brown and green, but can be found in just about any color imaginable.



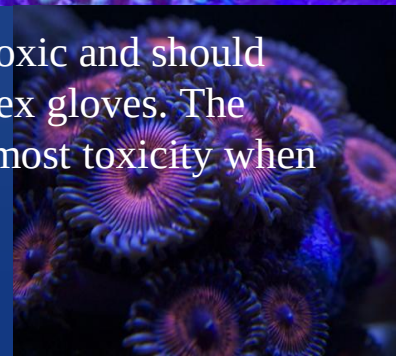
Propagation Information :

Zoanthids typically spread across rock and sand in a 360 degree pattern. Typical propagation methods include scraping polyps off of rock and supergluing them to other rocks or allowing the zoanthids to spread to there rocks then seperatingseparating them by cutting.



Toxicity Information :

These corals can be quite toxic and should always be handled with latex gloves. The corals tend to give off the most toxicity when disturbed or fragged.



Aquarium Coral

Live aquarium coral

Can be difficult to maintain, but by using aquarium coral you can create astonishingly beautiful and fascinating underwater landscapes in your aquarium. If you have no previous saltwater experience, you should ideally begin by keeping a fish-only saltwater aquarium or a fish-only with live rock aquarium before you set up a reef aquarium with delicate live aquarium corals.

Aquarium coral have very particular requirements and keeping healthy aquarium coral differs a lot from keeping fish and mobile invertebrates. The ocean is filled with an abundance of different soft and hard coral species and only a fraction of them have been successfully kept in hobby aquariums. Always research each species thoroughly before you purchase them for your aquarium in order to find out more about the specific requirements for each species.

Reef building aquarium coral can only be kept in tropical saltwater aquarium since they need a water temperature of 20-28 degrees C (68-82 degrees F). Just like humans, corals need calcium to form their skeleton. Corals will absorb sufficient amounts of calcium from the water, but only as long as the water has the correct temperature and salinity. High levels of carbon dioxide in the aquarium can also interfere with this process.

Aquarium coral will typically be very picky when it comes to such factors as currents, water quality and lighting. Since corals are more or less immobile, they usually rely on currents to bring them food and oxygen, and remove waste products. For many species, a one way current will not be enough. These demanding corals are typically found in regions affected by intricate underwater currents, waves or surfs.

Providing your aquarium coral with proper nutrition is naturally also imperative. A lot of coral fatalities in aquariums are actually caused by malnutrition or over feeding. Feed your corals small servings each day, or at least several times a week, instead of dumping a lot of food in the aquarium once in a while. Larger polyps can usually be fed zooplankton, while smaller polyps need liquid coral food.

Many beautiful coral species are found in shallow debts. As mentioned above, reef building corals are only found in tropical regions, and a shallow debt combined with the amount of strong sun that corals receive in these areas of the world have made it possible for very demanding coral species to evolve. If you want to keep such aquarium coral, you must provide it with very potent lighting. Corals form a symbiotic relationship with photosynthesizing algae and will die if this photosynthesis can not be carried out. It is therefore uncommon to find corals growing further down than 46 meters (150 feet). Coral species have however been found as far down as 6,000 meters (19,700 feet) and such species can of course survive without strong light.

Banggai Cardinal Declared Endangered
From Microcosm Aquarium Explorer
Banggai Cardinalfish mixed-age shoal. Alf J. Nilsen/Bioquatic

Overzealous Collection for the Aquarium Trade is Blamed for Threat to Survival of the Wild Banggai Cardinalfish,Barely more than a decade after being introduced to the marine aquarium trade, the elegant Banggai Cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*) has been placed on the IUCN Red List as an Endangered Species. Ironically, the assessment done for the World Conservation Union, publishers of the Red List, was carried out in part by Dr. Gerry Allen. Dr. Allen, with underwater photographer and well-respected marine naturalist Roger Steene, in 1992 presented their discovery of the species in a remote area of Indonesia, triggering intense interest in the aquarium hobby.

Unlike most marine fish species, the Banggai Cardinalfish is confined to a relatively small area in the wild and has been very vulnerable to overcollection.Concerned aquarists are urging captive breeders to create local supplies of aquacultured Banggai Cardinals, mouthbrooders that have been referred to as the "guppies" of marine fishes for the ease with which they are bred. In turn, hobbyists are asked to seek out captive-bred Banggais, which have a much better survival record than imported wild stock. An attempt by the United States to have trade in this species controlled by a CITES classification failed earlier in 2007. There is currently no restriction on trade of *Pterapogon kauderni*.

Juvenile Banggai Cardinalfish.

The Banggai Cardinalfish, *Pterapogon kauderni*, is a small reef fish endemic to the Banggai Islands off Sulawesi, Indonesia. This species is distinguished by having a relatively small population size, limited distribution (EOO about 5,500 km, AOO about 34 km² and it has two distinct geographic clades and one small subpopulation introduced accidentally to Sulawesi), plasticity and ontogenetic differences in microhabitat utilization, a social system based upon group living, territorial behavior in both males and females, paired courtship and spawning that is initiated by females, low fecundity, considerable investment in energy resources for reproduction, paternal oral incubation of eggs and free-living embryos, a lack of a pelagic larval phase, limited dispersal capability and localized settlement and recruitment.

Decline Rates

Several subpopulations affected by the aquarium fishery exhibited dramatic declines between 2001 and 2004, among them: a complete extinction of a subpopulation was documented off Limbo Island in 2004. According to a 2001 census this subpopulation was composed of about 50,000 fish (densities = 0.02 fish/m²); and a small subpopulation off Bakakan Island that harbored 6,000 fish in 2001 was reduced to 17 individuals in 2004 (Vagelli 2005).
The rate of decline for this species is difficult to calculate, since the earliest quantitative surveys (2001) were carried out several years after the harvest began within its natural geographic range. However, one subpopulation localized inside a bay in Southwest Banggai Island has been off limits to all fishing since before the beginning of the trade (the bay is privately owned by a pearl farm business). The bay has the typical habitats, microhabitats, and oceanographic characteristics in which P. kauderni is found throughout the Archipelago, and therefore this subpopulation may be used to estimate what the historical baseline abundance for this species could have been. The density of this subpopulation was 0.63 individuals/m).

This density is significantly higher than the mean density (0.07 individuals/m²) of the eight censuses completed in 2004 in unprotected sites [S = 0.05; highest d= 0.21 (Bokan); lowest d= 0.028 (Bangkulu)]. In addition, a census was carried out about 300 m from the protected bay and the density was 0.071 ind./m² (Lunn and Moreau 2004, Vagelli 2005). If the 0.63 density value is considered as the historical normal density for this species within the Archipelago, then a reduction of approximately 89% took place since the start of the fishery (about 9 to 10 years before the 2004 censuses).

Local Bans Trigger Rebounding Effects
However, at one of these sites (Masoni) the density increased from 0.03 to 0.06 individuals/m² between 2001 and 2004. This increase is thought to have occurred in response to a collecting ban that the local people imposed in early 2003. In another site (Bokan) a more significant increase was found in 2004, i.e., 0.21 individuals/m². In this case too, collection in the census site (which has an area of occupancy of only about 1 km²) was banned in 2002 by the village chief because of disputes with outside collectors (Vagelli 2005).
The size class structure of populations found during the last survey (2004) within the natural range of P. kauderni, agree with those reported previously, where most fish encountered were large juveniles (6 to 9 months old), whereas newly released recruits (<15 mm TL) are rare (Vagelli and Erdmann 2002). Thus, in 2004 of a total of 3,672 individuals censused, within the Archipelago, 1,364 (37.1%) were adults, 2,140 (58.3%) were older juveniles and 168 (4.6%) new recruits and small juveniles up to about 2 months of age (Vagelli 2005).
Assessment
The decline information is not sufficient to apply Criterion A and likewise Criteria C and D cannot be used because the population is too large. However, based on the very small area of occupancy (AOO), the severe fragmentation (see the documentation below) and the ongoing continuing decline (local extirpations and marked decrease in population size in recent years) due to exploitation for the international aquarium trade, this species is assessed as Endangered under Criterion B.

From the IUCN Red List Assessment by Allen, G.R & Donaldson, T.J

BECOME A CHARTER MEMBER TODAY

Membership

Dues are $25 for the calendar year. These dues quickly pay for themselves by the discounts given that many local stores honor to MAAST members.

We are trying to make our club better, bringing more educational topics, more door prizes and raffle items, and guest speakers. We also have the routine maintenance items like the website, food for meetings, membership dues to national marine organizations, and print/ publication fee's. Membership dues allow our club to keep afloat. and make all of this possible. As always, the website portion of the club will remain free.

Why collect dues?

1. Keeps MAAST afloat.
2. Funds club meetings so host does not have to pay for all out of pocket.
3. Allows for an image gallery on MAAST website.
4. Extra funds go into pool for "expert" speakers at the meetings.
5. Higher quality raffles, higher quality meetings, higher quality club!
6. Eligibility to run for a club office or be appointed to a committee.
7. Eligibility to VOTE!
8. Discounts at participating LFS's and online vendors.
9. A membership card
10. A voice to represent aquarists' interest.

For more information concerning Charter status, please read our By-Laws.

The membership dues are $25.00. Payment can be made either at the meetings, online via PayPal, or with a check mailed to our PO Box below.

PayPal fee's can be sent to **treasurer@maast.org**

or via snail mail to:
MAAST
P. O. Box 780582
San Antonio, TX 78278

Please include name, sign-in name, e-mail, home address, and phone!

Thanks for everyones help and support with this great organization!

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HELPFUL TIPS

Optimum levels

PH 8.1~8.3

Alkalinity 8dKH

Calcium 450 ppm

Magnesium 1350 ppm

Nitrate 0 ppm

Phosphate 0~.01 ppm

MAAST