

Crown of Thorns starfish



© Sandra Caramelle

What's a COTs



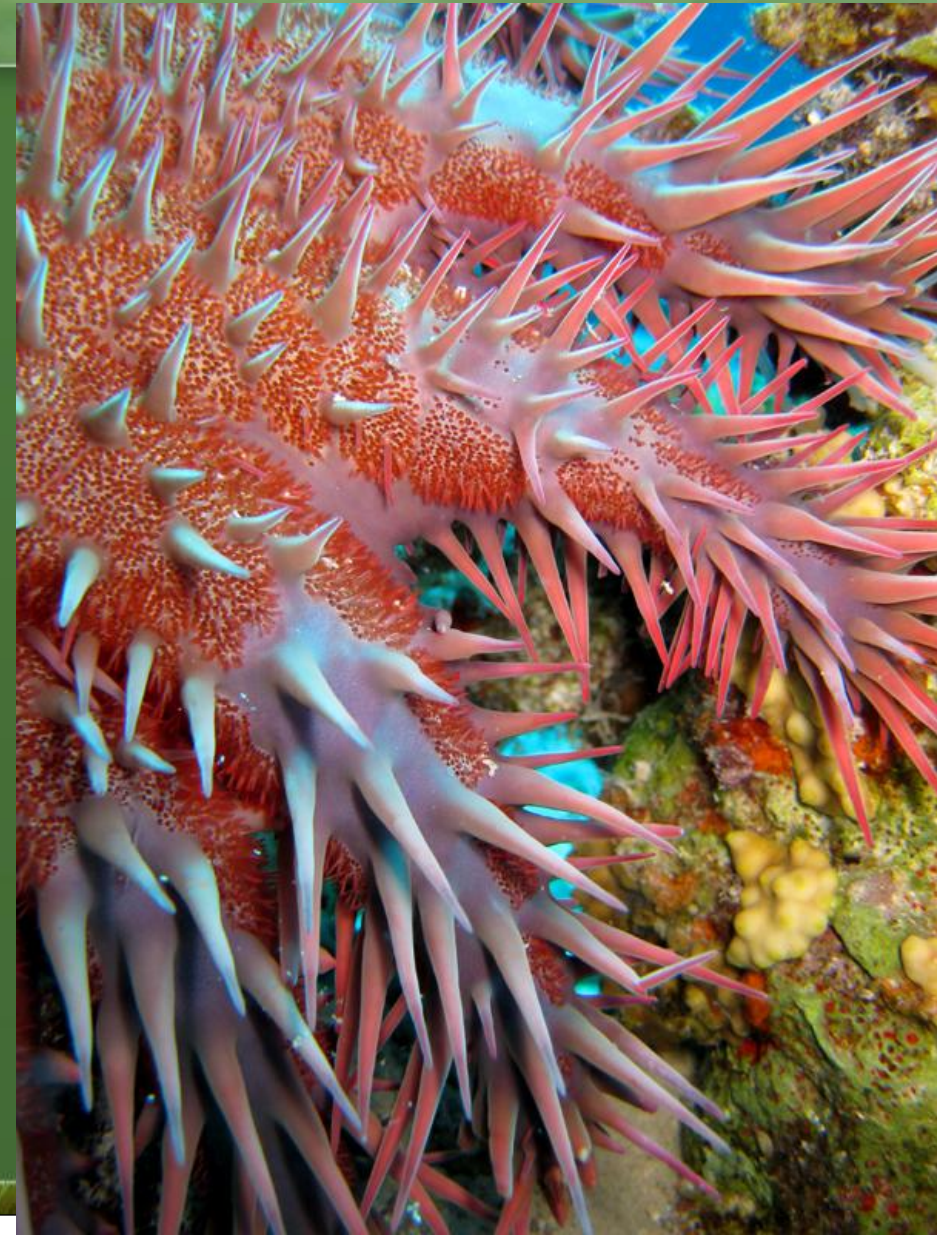
- ❑ Large starfish
- ❑ Up to 1m in diameter
- ❑ Long poisonous spines
- ❑ High number of arms (up to 21)
- ❑ Great variation in colors

Some examples of COTs



Some examples of COTs

© Elke Bojanowski



This is not a COT!!! – Sea urchins



☐ Long-spined urchin



☐ Slate pencil urchin



☐ Banded urchin

This is not a COT!!! – Sea urchins



□ Rock-boring urchin



□ Toxic leather urchin

This is not a COT!!! – Sea-stars



❑ Spiny sea-star



❑ Pearl sea-star

This is not a COT!!! – Seastars

☐ Comb sea-star



☐ Warty sea-star



Take Action!

- ❑ Get informed on COTs;
- ❑ Download the survey [form](#) and report [us](#) unusual densities of COTs;
- ❑ Participate in COTs clean-ups.

More info: www.hepca.com



Crown of Thorn Survey

Data-sheet ref. number (office use only): _____

1. Dive center: _____

2. Your name: _____ 3. E-mail: _____

4. You are: Scientist Professional diver Visitor Other

5. Date: ___ / ___ / ___ 6. Dive site: _____

7. Depth: _____ meters 8. Water temperature: _____ °Celsius

9. Time in: _____ 10. Time out: _____

11. At what depth have you seen COTs:
 0 to 6 m 6 to 12 m 12 to 18 m deeper than 18 m

12. Estimated area covered during dive: _____ m²

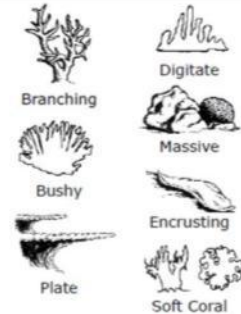
13. Number of COTs observed: _____

14. Types of coral affected

(see table on the right):

- Branching
- Digitate
- Bushy
- Massive
- Encrusting
- Plate
- Soft coral

Table 1 Coral lifeforms



15. Comments: please, use the back of this form to add any further comments or information that could be useful.

by Elke Bojanowski



Thank you for you help!