

Status of *Acanthaster planci* in Indonesian Waters¹

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Abstract

During the height of the *Acanthaster* scare, a few limited surveys were carried out on some Indonesian coral reefs. The recorded number of individuals was from 4 to 13 along a ten-meter line. In January of 1973 an additional survey was carried out on some reefs around Ambon Island. A rather large number of small juveniles was observed, but not at a dangerous level. It is believed that destruction of reef environment due to man activities, such as picking up coral heads for construction in some of the heavily populated islands in Indonesia, is more serious than damage caused by *Acanthaster planci*.

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