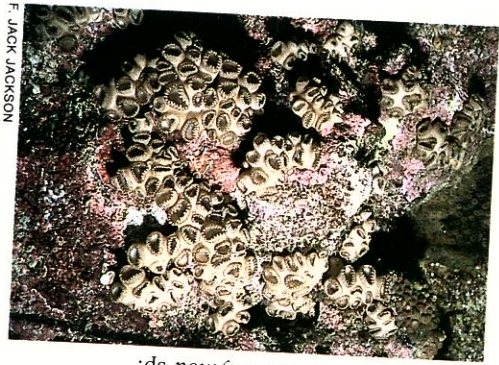




Zoanthid: *Palythoa tuberculosa*

J. DAVID GEORGE



F. JACK JACKSON

Zoanthid soft coral: *Palythoa* sp.

Order: Corallimorpharia

FAMILY: ACTINODISCIDAE

Actinodiscus nummiformis sometimes forms loose colonies in fairly shallow water, often on the underhanging surfaces of crevices. It reproduces by budding. Colour is variable, bluish-green, red or brown.

Rhodactis rhodostoma is usually brown in colour with a dense covering of short, papillose tentacles. Lives on dead corals in shallows.

Order: Zoanthiaria

These are mostly colonial forms whose polyps are superficially similar to those of small anemones.

FAMILY: ZOANTHIDAE
Palythoa tuberculosa (see photograph) occurs in shallow water, usually among dead corals. It is a highly toxic sea anemone and may render certain fish which consume it poisonous to eat.

Zoanthus bertheletti forms mat-like colonies, usually on sand or sand-covered rocks. The polyps are approximately 5mm high and 3mm wide, and the base of the column is blue-grey while the upper portion is bright red. The oral disc is granulated. It is quite a common anemone on stones in shallow water.