Coral colony interactions (Pocillopora and Acropora) from field observations at LTER sites in Moorea, French Polynesia in 2014 (MCR LTER project, OA coral adaptation project)

Website: https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/684528
Data Type: Other Field Results
Version: 1
Version Date: 2017-03-17

Project
» Moorea Coral Reef Long-Term Ecological Research site (MCR LTER)
» Collaborative Research: Ocean Acidification and Coral Reefs: Scale Dependence and Adaptive Capacity (OA coral adaptation)

Programs
» Long Term Ecological Research network (LTER)
» Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability NSF-Wide Investment (SEES): Ocean Acidification (formerly CRI-OA) (SEES-OA)

Contributors	Affiliation	Role
Edmunds, Peter J.	California State University Northridge (CSUN)	Principal Investigator
Carpenter, Robert	California State University Northridge (CSUN)	Co-Principal Investigator
Srednick, Griffin	California State University Northridge (CSUN)	Technician
Vaughan, Megan	California State University Northridge (CSUN)	Technician
York, Amber D.	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI BCO-DMO)	BCO-DMO Data Manager

Abstract
Interspecific and intraspecific interaction metrics for Pocillopora verrucosa and Acropora hyacinthus coral colonies were acquired from field observations in Moorea, French Polynesia in 2014. Colony counts and interaction observations were made using photoquadrats.

Table of Contents

- Coverage
- Dataset Description
  - Methods & Sampling
  - Data Processing Description
- Data Files
- Related Publications
- Parameters
- Instruments
- Deployments
- Project Information
- Program Information
- Funding

Coverage

Spatial Extent: **N**:-17.47206 **E**:-149.80991 **S**:-17.47478 **W**:-149.83494
Temporal Extent: 2014

Dataset Description

These data were utilized in Evensen & Edmunds, 2016.

Other datasets utilized in Evensen and Edmunds, 2016:
* coral growth - https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/683932
* seawater chemistry - https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/684541

Methods & Sampling

Data is from the analysis of photoquadrats taken on the fore reef of MCR LTER sites 1 and 2. Photoquadrats (0.25 m2) were used to quantify the frequency of interactions between adjacent *Pocillopora* colonies, and between adjacent colonies of *Pocillopora* and *Acropora*. Colonies of each genus were inferred to be interacting and competing for space when they were <5 mm apart. The number of colonies inferred to be engaged in spatial competition based on analyses of the photoquadrats was expressed as a percentage of the total number of *Pocillopora* and *Acropora*.

Coral collection occurred in 2014 and was conducted at 'LTER1 and LTER2' (~1.5 km apart; n = 40 site−1) on the north shore of Moorea.

Data Processing Description

Physical conditions in the flumes were analyzed with a two-way ANOVA, with pCO2 as a fixed effect and flume a random factor nested in each treatment. Calcification, horizontal growth, and vertical growth collectively were analyzed in multivariate framework using mixed effects PERMANOVA, with pCO2 as a fixed, between plot effect, flume as a random factor nested in each treatment, and arrangement as a fixed, split-plot effect in each flume.

BCO-DMO Data Manager Processing Notes:
* added a conventional header with dataset name, PI name, version date
* modified parameter names to conform with BCO-DMO naming conventions
* blank values replaced with no data value 'nd'
* all values were rounded to three decimal places if more than that
* latitude and longitude for LTER1 and LTER2 sites added to data

[table of contents | back to top]

Data Files

File
interactions.csv (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 4.10 KB) MD5:8eedbf8e0174cbebec220c5166118d64 Primary data file for dataset ID 684528

[table of contents | back to top]

Related Publications

Comeau, S., Carpenter, R. C., Lantz, C. A., & Edmunds, P. J. (2016). Parameterization of the response of calcification to temperature and pCO2 in the coral Acropora pulchra and the alga Lithophyllum kotschyanum. Coral Reefs, 35(3), 929–939. doi:10.1007/s00338-016-1425-0
Related Research

Evensen, N. R., & Edmunds, P. J. (2016). Interactive effects of ocean acidification and neighboring corals on the growth of Pocillopora verrucosa. Marine Biology, 163(7). doi:10.1007/s00227-016-2921-z
Results

[table of contents | back to top]

Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
site	Sampling location; Moorea Coral Reef Long Term Ecological Monitoring (LTER) Sites 1 and 2	unitless
lat	Latitude of sampling location	decimal degrees
lon	Longitude of sampling location; west is negative	decimal degrees
pocillopora_colonies	Number of Pocillopora colonies in each photoquadrat	unitless
P_P_interactions	Number of Pocillopora-Pocillopora interactions in each photoquadrat; colonies were inferred to be in spatial competition when they were <5 mm apart	unitless
percent_pocillopora_conspecific	Pocillopora colonies in conspecific interactions expressed as a percentage of the total number of Pocillopora colonies in each photoquadrat	unitless
acropora_colonies	Number of Acropora colonies in each photoquadrat	unitless
A_P_interactions	Number of Acropora-Pocillopora interactions in each photoquadrat; colonies were inferred to be in spatial competition when they were <5 mm apart	unitless
percent_acropora_interspecific	Acropora-Pocillopora interactions expressed as a percentage of the total number of Acropora colonies in each photoquadrat	unitless
percent_pocillopora_interspecific	Acropora-Pocillopora interactions expressed as a percentage of the total number of Pocillopora colonies in each photoquadrat	unitless

[table of contents | back to top]

Instruments

Dataset-specific Instrument Name	
Generic Instrument Name	Camera
Dataset-specific Description	used for photoquadrats
Generic Instrument Description	All types of photographic equipment including stills, video, film and digital systems.

[table of contents | back to top]

Deployments

MCR_Edmunds

Website	https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/640059
Platform	Richard B Gump Research Station - Moorea LTER
Start Date	2010-01-01
End Date	2016-12-31
Description	Ongoing studies on corals

[table of contents | back to top]

Project Information

Moorea Coral Reef Long-Term Ecological Research site (MCR LTER)

Website: http://mcr.lternet.edu/

Coverage: Island of Moorea, French Polynesia

NSF Award Abstract:

Coral reefs provide important benefits to society, from food to exceptional biodiversity to shoreline protection and recreation, but they are threatened by natural perturbations and

human activities, including those causing global-scale changes. These pressures increasingly are causing coral reefs to undergo large, often abrupt, ecological changes where corals are being replaced by seaweeds or other undesirable organisms. Historically, the major agent of disturbance to coral reefs has been powerful storms, but in recent decades, episodes of mass coral bleaching from marine heat waves have become more frequent and severe as the temperature of ocean surface waters continues to rise. Coral reefs are further stressed by local human activities that cause nutrient pollution and deplete herbivorous fishes that control growth of seaweeds. Studying how coral reefs respond to these two types of disturbance under different levels of nutrient pollution and fishing provides essential information on what affects the ability of coral reefs to buffer environmental change and disturbances without collapsing to a persistent, degraded condition. The fundamental goals of the Moorea Coral Reef Long Term Ecological Research program (MCR LTER) are to understand how and why coral reefs change over time, to assess the consequences of these changes, and to contribute scientific knowledge needed to sustain coral reef ecosystems and the important societal services they provide. This research improves understanding and management of coral reefs, which benefits all groups concerned with the welfare of this ecologically, economically and culturally important ecosystem. In addition to academic communities, scientific findings are communicated to interested individuals, non-governmental organizations, island communities and governmental entities. These findings also are integrated into K-12, undergraduate, graduate and public education activities through a multi-pronged program that includes inquiry-based curricula, interactive and media-based public education programs, and internet-based resources. MCR?s research, training, education and outreach efforts all emphasize broadening participation in STEM fields and strengthening STEM literacy.

New research activities build on MCR LTER?s powerful foundation of long-term observations and broad ecological understanding of oceanic coral reefs to address the following core issues: How is the changing disturbance regime (recurrent heat waves in addition to cyclonic storms) altering the resilience of coral reefs, and what are the ecological consequences of altered resilience? Research activities are organized around a unifying framework that explicitly addresses how reef communities are affected by the nature and history of coral-killing disturbances, and how those responses to disturbance are influenced by the pattern of local human stressors. New studies answer three focal questions: (1) How do different disturbance types, which either remove (storms) or retain (heat waves) dead coral skeletons, affect community dynamics, abrupt changes in ecological state, and resilience? (2) How do local stressors interact with new disturbance regimes to create spatial heterogeneity in community dynamics, ecosystem processes, and spatial resilience? And (3) What attributes of coral and coral reef communities influence their capacity to remain resilient under current and future environmental conditions? These questions provide an unparalleled opportunity to test hypotheses and advance theory regarding ecological resilience and the causes and consequences of abrupt ecological change, which is broadly relevant across aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

This award reflects NSF's statutory mission and has been deemed worthy of support through evaluation using the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts review criteria.

From http://www.lternet.edu/sites/mcr/ and http://mcr.lternet.edu/:
The Moorea Coral Reef LTER site encompasses the coral reef complex that surrounds the island of Moorea, French Polynesia (17°30'S, 149°50'W). Moorea is a small, triangular volcanic island 20 km west of Tahiti in the Society Islands of French Polynesia. An offshore barrier reef forms a system of shallow (mean depth ~ 5-7 m), narrow (~0.8-1.5 km wide) lagoons around the 60 km perimeter of Moorea. All major coral reef types (e.g., fringing reef, lagoon patch reefs, back reef, barrier reef and fore reef) are present and accessible by small boat.

The MCR LTER was established in 2004 by the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and is a partnership between the University of California Santa Barbara and California State University, Northridge. MCR researchers include marine scientists from the UC Santa Barbara, CSU Northridge, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego, CSU San Marcos, Duke University and the University of Hawaii. Field operations are conducted from the UC Berkeley Richard B. Gump South Pacific Research Station on the island of Moorea, French Polynesia.

MCR LTER Data: The Moorea Coral Reef (MCR) LTER data are managed by and available directly from the MCR project data site URL shown above. The datasets listed below were collected at or near the MCR LTER sampling locations, and funded by NSF OCE as ancillary projects related to the MCR LTER core research themes.

This project is supported by continuing grants with slight name variations:

- LTER: Long-Term Dynamics of a Coral Reef Ecosystem
- LTER: MCR II - Long-Term Dynamics of a Coral Reef Ecosystem
- LTER: MCR IIB: Long-Term Dynamics of a Coral Reef Ecosystem
- LTER: MCR III: Long-Term Dynamics of a Coral Reef Ecosystem
- LTER: MCR IV: Long-Term Dynamics of a Coral Reef Ecosystem

Collaborative Research: Ocean Acidification and Coral Reefs: Scale Dependence and Adaptive Capacity (OA coral adaptation)

Website: http://mcr.lternet.edu

Coverage: Moorea, French Polynesia

Extracted from the NSF award abstract:

This project focuses on the most serious threat to marine ecosystems, Ocean Acidification (OA), and addresses the problem in the most diverse and beautiful ecosystem on the planet, coral reefs. The research utilizes Moorea, French Polynesia as a model system, and builds from the NSF investment in the Moorea Coral Reef Long Term Ecological Research Site (LTER) to exploit physical and biological monitoring of coral reefs as a context for a program of studies focused on the ways in which OA will affect corals, calcified algae, and coral reef ecosystems. The project builds on a four-year NSF award with research in five new directions: (1) experiments of year-long duration, (2) studies of coral reefs to 20-m depth, (3) experiments in which carbon dioxide will be administered to plots of coral reef underwater, (4) measurements of the capacity of coral reef organisms to change through evolutionary and induced responses to improve their resistance to OA, and (5) application of emerging theories to couple studies of individual organisms to studies of whole coral reefs. Broader impacts will accrue through a better understanding of the ways in which OA will affect coral reefs that are the poster child for demonstrating climate change effects in the marine environment, and which provide income, food, and coastal protection to millions of people living in coastal areas, including in the United States.

This project focuses on the effects of Ocean Acidification on tropical coral reefs and builds on a program of research results from an existing 4-year award, and closely interfaces with the technical, hardware, and information infrastructure provided through the Moorea Coral Reef (MCR) LTER. The MCR-LTER, provides an unparalleled opportunity to partner with a study of OA effects on a coral reef with a location that arguably is better instrumented and studied in more ecological detail than any other coral reef in the world. Therefore, the results can be both contextualized by a high degree of ecological and physical relevance, and readily integrated into emerging theory seeking to predict the structure and function of coral reefs in warmer and more acidic future oceans. The existing award has involved a program of study in Moorea that has focused mostly on short-term organismic and ecological responses of corals and calcified algae, experiments conducted in mesocosms and flumes, and measurements of reef-scale calcification. This new award involves three new technical advances: for the first time, experiments will be conducted of year-long duration in replicate outdoor flumes; CO2 treatments will be administered to fully intact reef ecosystems in situ using replicated underwater flumes; and replicated common garden cultivation techniques will be used to explore within-species genetic variation in the response to OA conditions. Together, these tools will be used to support research on corals and calcified algae in three thematic areas: (1) tests for long-term (1 year) effects of OA on growth, performance, and fitness, (2) tests for depth-dependent effects of OA on reef communities at 20-m depth where light regimes are attenuated compared to shallow water, and (3) tests for beneficial responses to OA through intrinsic, within-species genetic variability and phenotypic plasticity. Some of the key experiments in these thematic areas will be designed to exploit integral projection models (IPMs) to couple organism with community responses, and to support the use of the metabolic theory of ecology (MTE) to address scale-dependence of OA effects on coral reef organisms and the function of the communities they build.

The following publications and data resulted from this project:

Comeau S, Carpenter RC, Lantz CA, Edmunds PJ. (2016) Parameterization of the response of calcification to temperature and pCO2 in the coral Acropora pulchra and the alga Lithophyllum kotschyanum. Coral Reefs 2016. DOI 10.1007/s00338-016-1425-0.
calcification rates (2014)
calcification rates (2010)

Comeau, S., Carpenter, R.C., Edmunds, P.J. (2016) Effects of pCO2 on photosynthesis and respiration of tropical scleractinian corals and calcified algae. ICES Journal of Marine Science doi:10.1093/icesjms/fsv267.
respiration and photosynthesis I
respiration and photosynthesis II

Evensen, N.R. & Edmunds P. J. (2016) Interactive effects of ocean acidification and neighboring corals on the growth of Pocillopora verrucosa. Marine Biology, 163:148.
doi: 10.1007/s00227-016-2921-z
coral growth
seawater chemistry
coral colony interactions

[table of contents | back to top]

Program Information

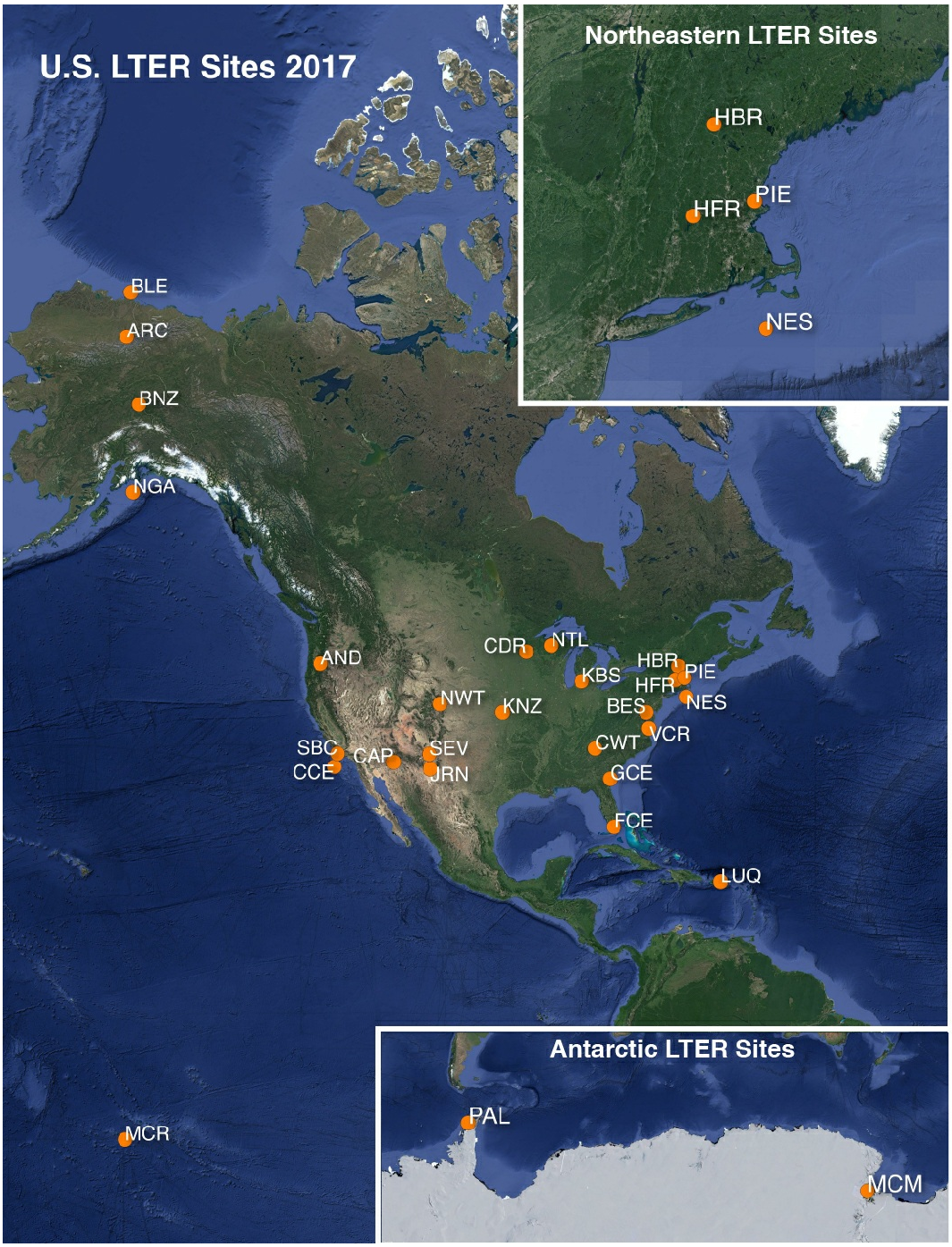
Long Term Ecological Research network (LTER)

Website: http://www.lternet.edu/

Coverage: United States

adapted from http://www.lternet.edu/

The National Science Foundation established the LTER program in 1980 to support research on long-term ecological phenomena in the United States. The Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network is a collaborative effort involving more than 1800 scientists and students investigating ecological processes over long temporal and broad spatial scales. The LTER Network promotes synthesis and comparative research across sites and ecosystems and among other related national and international research programs. The LTER research sites represent diverse ecosystems with emphasis on different research themes, and cross-site communication, network publications, and research-planning activities are coordinated through the LTER Network Office.



Site Codes

AND	Andrews Forest LTER
ARC	Arctic LTER
BES	Baltimore Ecosystem Stu
BLE	Beaufort Lagoon Ecosystems LTER
BNZ	Bonanza Creek LTER
CCE	California Current Ecosystem LTER
CDR	Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve
CAP	Central Arizona-Phoenix LTER
CWT	Coweeta LTER
FCE	Florida Coastal Everglades LTER
GCE	Georgia Coastal Ecosystems LTER
HFR	Harvard Forest LTER
HBR	Hubbard Brook LTER
JRN	Jornada Basin LTER
KBS	Kellogg Biological Station LTER
KNZ	Konza Prairie LTER
LUQ	Luquillo LTER
MCM	McMurdo Dry Valleys LT
MCR	Moorea Coral Reef LTEF
NWT	Niwot Ridge LTER
NTL	North Temperate Lakes I
NES	Northeast U.S. Shelf LTE
NGA	Northern Gulf of Alaska I
PAL	Palmer Antarctica LTER
PIE	Plum Island Ecosystems LTER
SBC	Santa Barbara Coastal L
SEV	Sevilleta LTER
VCR	Virginia Coast Reserve L

2017 LTER research site map obtained from https://lternet.edu/site/lter-network/

Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability NSF-Wide Investment (SEES): Ocean Acidification (formerly CRI-OA) (SEES-OA)

Website: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503477

Coverage: global

NSF Climate Research Investment (CRI) activities that were initiated in 2010 are now included under Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability NSF-Wide Investment (SEES). SEES is a portfolio of activities that highlights NSF's unique role in helping society address the challenge(s) of achieving sustainability. Detailed information about the SEES program is available from NSF (https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504707).

In recognition of the need for basic research concerning the nature, extent and impact of ocean acidification on oceanic environments in the past, present and future, the goal of the SEES: OA program is to understand (a) the chemistry and physical chemistry of ocean acidification; (b) how ocean acidification interacts with processes at the organismal level; and (c) how the earth system history informs our understanding of the effects of ocean acidification on the present day and future ocean.

Solicitations issued under this program:
NSF 10-530, FY 2010-FY2011
NSF 12-500, FY 2012
NSF 12-600, FY 2013
NSF 13-586, FY 2014
NSF 13-586 was the final solicitation that will be released for this program.

PI Meetings:
1st U.S. Ocean Acidification PI Meeting(March 22-24, 2011, Woods Hole, MA)
2nd U.S. Ocean Acidification PI Meeting(Sept. 18-20, 2013, Washington, DC)
3rd U.S. Ocean Acidification PI Meeting (June 9-11, 2015, Woods Hole, MA – Tentative)

NSF media releases for the Ocean Acidification Program:

Press Release 10-186 NSF Awards Grants to Study Effects of Ocean Acidification

Discovery Blue Mussels "Hang On" Along Rocky Shores: For How Long?

Discovery nsf.gov - National Science Foundation (NSF) Discoveries - Trouble in Paradise: Ocean Acidification This Way Comes - US National Science Foundation (NSF)

Press Release 12-179 nsf.gov - National Science Foundation (NSF) News - Ocean Acidification: Finding New Answers Through National Science Foundation Research Grants - US National Science Foundation (NSF)

Press Release 13-102 World Oceans Month Brings Mixed News for Oysters

Press Release 13-108 nsf.gov - National Science Foundation (NSF) News - Natural Underwater Springs Show How Coral Reefs Respond to Ocean Acidification - US National Science Foundation (NSF)

Press Release 13-148 Ocean acidification: Making new discoveries through National Science Foundation research grants

Press Release 13-148 - Video nsf.gov - News - Video - NSF Ocean Sciences Division Director David Conover answers questions about ocean acidification. - US National Science Foundation (NSF)

Press Release 14-010 nsf.gov - National Science Foundation (NSF) News - Palau's coral reefs surprisingly resistant to ocean acidification - US National Science Foundation (NSF)

Press Release 14-116 nsf.gov - National Science Foundation (NSF) News - Ocean Acidification: NSF awards $11.4 million in new grants to study effects on marine ecosystems - US National Science Foundation (NSF)

[table of contents | back to top]

Funding

Funding Source	Award
NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)	OCE-1415300
NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)	OCE-1415268

[table of contents | back to top]