Physiological parameters of eight corals species surveyed from six locations around O'ahu, HI from August to November of 2015

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Project
» Phenotype and genotype of coral adaptation and acclimatization to global change (Coral Adaptation)

Contributors	Affiliation	Role
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Abstract
Physiological parameters of eight corals species surveyed from six locations around O'ahu, HI from August to November of 2015.

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Coverage

Spatial Extent: **N**:21.5925 **E**:-157.675 **S**:21.2875 **W**:-158.131
Temporal Extent: 2015-08-17 - 2015-11-13

Methods & Sampling

Coral collection

Corals were collected in 2015 from each of the six study sites (See Supplemental File “coral_collection_location_list.csv). Unsafe weather conditions lead to several delays during sampling which caused coral collection to span an 11-week period (between 17 August and 13 November). Eight species of coral, from three genera were sampled: Montipora capitata (branching and encrusting), Montipora flabellata (encrusting), Montipora patula (encrusting), Porites compressa (branching), Porites lobata (massive), Porites evermanni (massive), Pocillopora meandrina (branching), and Pocillopora acuta (branching) (McLachlan et al. submitted, Fig. 1). The Y and B morphs of P. damicornis that were historically common in Kāne'ohe Bay (Richmond and Jokiel 1984), appear to correspond to the cryptic species P. damicornis and P. acuta (Johnston et al. 2018). Recent studies have found that P. acuta has become the dominant species and that P. damicornis is now rare in Kāne'ohe Bay (Gorospe et al. 2015; Johnston et al. 2018), so we focus on P. acuta in this study. Due to the natural zonation in coral species distributions, not all eight species were found in all six locations. To minimize the impact of collection, only the most commonly available species were sampled at each site. From each site, between nine and fifteen coral ramets (each from a different genet) of each commonly available species were collected from 0.5–5 m depth yielding a total of 422 samples (McLachlan et al. submitted, Table 1). Genets were confirmed by genotyping about half of the colonies (232 of the 422 colonies sampled) using available species-specific microsatellite markers (Concepcion et al. 2010; Gorospe and Karl 2013), and no identical multilocus genotypes were found within a site, suggesting very low probability that any were clonally derived. Each coral ramet was 5–10 cm in size and was removed from larger parent genets using a hammer and chisel. None of the coral ramets included in this study were visibly pale or severely bleached. Samples were immediately frozen at -20 °C, stored at HIMB, and later shipped to The Ohio State University, Ohio, USA, where they were stored at -80 °C.

Physiological data

Encrusting algae and boring organisms were removed from the surface of each coral ramet using a Dremel tool fitted with a diamond tipped bit (Dremel Inc., Racine, WI). Each coral ramet was split into two pieces: one for biochemical and one for isotopic analysis.

The coral pieces designated for biochemical physiological analyses were photographed from all sides and the photographs processed in the software ImageJ (Rasband 1997) to estimate surface area using the geometric method (Naumann et al. 2009). Each coral piece was then individually ground into a fine homogenous paste using a chilled mortar and pestle, partitioned into subsamples designated for each biochemical analysis, and stored at -80 °C. Analyses of total chlorophyll *a* and *c2* concentration, total soluble protein, total tissue biomass, and total soluble lipid concentration (henceforth referred to as chlorophyll, protein, biomass, and lipid, respectively) were conducted based on methods modified from Jeffrey and Humphrey (1975), Bradford (1976), Grottoli et al. (2004), and Rodrigues and Grottoli (2007). Briefly, chlorophyll was extracted from ground coral samples using a double extraction in 100 % acetone, and the absorbance at 630, 663, and 750 nm wavelengths was measured using a spectrophotometer.

Detailed protocols for each of the other analyses are deposited in *Protocols.io. See:*
McLachlan et al. 2020; doi:10.17504/protocols.io.bdyai7se
McLachlan et al. 2020; doi:10.17504/protocols.io.bc4qiyvw
McLachlan et al. 2020; doi:10.17504/protocols.io.bdc8i2zw

The coral pieces designated for stable isotope analyses were prepared using methods modified from Hughes et al. (2010) and a detailed protocol is deposited in *Protocols.io* (Price et al. 2020). All isotope samples were combusted using a PDZ Europa ANCA-GSL elemental analyzer interfaced to a PDZ Europa 20-20 isotope ratio mass spectrometer (Sercon Ltd., Cheshire, UK) at the University of California Davis Stable Isotope Facility. The carbon

isotopic signature of the animal host (δ13Ch), and algal endosymbiont (δ13Ce), were reported as the per mil deviation of the stable isotopes 13C:12C relative to Vienna Peedee Belemnite Limestone Standard. The nitrogen isotopic signature of the animal host (δ15Nh), and algal endosymbiont (δ15Ne), were reported as the per mil deviation of the stable isotopes 14N:15N relative to air. At least 10 % of all measurements were made in duplicate, and the standard deviation of duplicate sample analyses were ±0.09 ‰ for δ13Ch, ±0.21 ‰ for δ13Ce, ±0.06 ‰ for δ15Nh, and ±0.12 ‰ for δ15Ne. Differences between δ13Ch and δ13Ce of each ramet were used to assess the relative contribution of photosynthetically and heterotrophically derived C in coral tissues [*sensu* Muscatine et al. (1989) and Rodrigues and Grottoli (2006)]. The lower the δ13Ch - δ13Ce value, the greater the relative contribution of heterotrophically versus photoautotrophically derived carbon to coral tissues, and vice versa for larger δ13Ch - δ13Ce values (Muscatine et al. 1989; Rodrigues and Grottoli 2006; Levas et al. 2013; Schoepf et al. 2015; Grottoli et al. 2017). Conversely, the lower the δ15Nh-e – δ15Nh-e value, the lower the relative contribution of heterotrophically derived nitrogen to coral tissues (Conti-Jerpe et al. 2020).

Species list:

ScientificName,AphiaID
Montipora capitata,287697
Montipora flabellata,207174
Montipora patula,207149
Pocillopora acuta,759099
Pocillopora meandrina,206964
Porites compressa,207236
Porites evermanni,288900
Porites lobata,207225

Data Processing Description

BCO-DMO data manager processing notes:
* Data submitted in file data.csv
* data values that are a period "." imported as missing data values as indicated in the dataset metadata.
* Coral collection site information supplied by the submitter was turned into a csv file and added as a supplemental document to this dataset.
* Latitude, longitude, and collection depth min and max added to the dataset from the collection site information.
* Date converted to ISO 8601 format yyyy-mm-dd
* Species names checked using the World Register of Marine Species taxa match tool. All names were exact matches to accepted names (as of 2021-02-18). List of species names and matched AphiaID added to the metadata.

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Data Files

File
coral_physiology.csv (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 53.11 KB) MD5:6ae7d55f74488885495b8a8fdc47ae7f Primary data file for dataset ID 841242

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Supplemental Files

File
Coral collection locations filename: coral_collection_location_list.csv (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 531 bytes) MD5:8cb7d848966bb4bd881840beec1682ea Coral collection site information including columns: Site, Collection site short name,unitless Site_full_name,Colleciton site full name including special characters Island,Island name State, State name Country, Country name lat,latitude,decimal degrees lon,longitude,decimal degrees collection_min_depth,Collection range minimum depth,meters collection_max_depth,Collection range maximum depth,meters

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Related Publications

Bradford, M. M. (1976). A rapid and sensitive method for the quantitation of microgram quantities of protein utilizing the principle of protein-dye binding. Analytical Biochemistry, 72(1-2), 248–254. doi:10.1016/0003-2697(76)90527-3
Methods

Concepcion, G. T., Polato, N. R., Baums, I. B., & Toonen, R. J. (2010). Development of microsatellite markers from four Hawaiian corals: Acropora cytherea, Fungia scutaria, Montipora capitata and Porites lobata. Conservation Genetics Resources, 2(1), 11–15. doi:10.1007/s12686-009-9118-4
Methods

Conti-Jerpe, I. E., Thompson, P. D., Wong, C. W. M., Oliveira, N. L., Duprey, N. N., Moynihan, M. A., & Baker, D. M. (2020). Trophic strategy and bleaching resistance in reef-building corals. Science Advances, 6(15), eaaz5443. doi:10.1126/sciadv.aaz5443
Methods

Gorospe, K. D., & Karl, S. A. (2013). Genetic relatedness does not retain spatial pattern across multiple spatial scales: dispersal and colonization in the coral,Pocillopora damicornis. Molecular Ecology, 22(14), 3721–3736. doi:10.1111/mec.12335
Methods

Gorospe, K. D., Donahue, M. J., & Karl, S. A. (2015). The importance of sampling design: spatial patterns and clonality in estimating the genetic diversity of coral reefs. Marine Biology, 162(5), 917–928. doi:10.1007/s00227-015-2634-8
Methods

Grottoli, A. G., Rodrigues, L. J., & Juarez, C. (2004). Lipids and stable carbon isotopes in two species of Hawaiian corals, Porites compressa and Montipora verrucosa, following a bleaching event. Marine Biology, 145(3). doi:10.1007/s00227-004-1337-3
Methods

Grottoli, A. G., Tchernov, D., & Winters, G. (2017). Physiological and Biogeochemical Responses of Super-Corals to Thermal Stress from the Northern Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea. Frontiers in Marine Science, 4. doi:10.3389/fmars.2017.00215
Methods

Hughes, A., Grottoli, A., Pease, T., & Matsui, Y. (2010). Acquisition and assimilation of carbon in non-bleached and bleached corals. Marine Ecology Progress Series, 420, 91–101. doi:10.3354/meps08866
Methods

Jeffrey, S. W., & Humphrey, G. F. (1975). New spectrophotometric equations for determining chlorophylls a, b, c1 and c2 in higher plants, algae and natural phytoplankton. Biochemie Und Physiologie Der Pflanzen, 167(2), 191–194. doi:10.1016/s0015-3796(17)30778-3 https://doi.org/10.1016/S0015-3796(17)30778-3
Methods

Johnston, E. C., Forsman, Z. H., & Toonen, R. J. (2018). A simple molecular technique for distinguishing species reveals frequent misidentification of Hawaiian corals in the genus Pocillopora. PeerJ, 6, e4355. doi:10.7717/peerj.4355
Methods

Levas, S. J., Grottoli, A. G., Hughes, A., Osburn, C. L., & Matsui, Y. (2013). Physiological and Biogeochemical Traits of Bleaching and Recovery in the Mounding Species of Coral Porites lobata: Implications for Resilience in Mounding Corals. PLoS ONE, 8(5), e63267. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0063267
Methods

McLachlan, R. H., Price, J. T., Muñoz-Garcia, A., Weisleder, N. L., Jury, C. P., Toonen, R. J., & Grottoli, A. G. (2021). Environmental gradients drive physiological variation in Hawaiian corals. Coral Reefs, 40(5), 1505–1523. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00338-021-02140-8
Results

Mclachlan, R., Dobson, K., & Grottoli, A. (2020). Quantification of Total Biomass in Ground Coral Samples v1 (protocols.io.bdyai7se). Protocols.io. doi:10.17504/protocols.io.bdyai7se
Methods

Mclachlan, R., Munoz, A., & Grottoli, A. (2020). Extraction of Total Soluble Lipid from Ground Coral Samples v1 (protocols.io.bc4qiyvw). Protocols.io. doi:10.17504/protocols.io.bc4qiyvw
Methods

Mclachlan, R., Price, J., Dobson, K., Weisleder, N., & Grottoli, A. (2020). Microplate Assay for Quantification of Soluble Protein in Ground Coral Samples v1 (protocols.io.bdc8i2zw). Protocols.io. doi:10.17504/protocols.io.bdc8i2zw
Methods

Muscatine, L., Porter, J. W., & Kaplan, I. R. (1989). Resource partitioning by reef corals as determined from stable isotope composition. Marine Biology, 100(2), 185–193. doi:10.1007/bf00391957 https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00391957
Methods

Naumann, M. S., Niggl, W., Laforsch, C., Glaser, C., & Wild, C. (2009). Coral surface area quantification–evaluation of established techniques by comparison with computer tomography. Coral Reefs, 28(1), 109–117. doi:10.1007/s00338-008-0459-3
Methods

Price, J. T., McLachlan, R. H., Jury, C. P., Toonen, R. J., & Grottoli, A. G. (2021). Isotopic approaches to estimating the contribution of heterotrophic sources to Hawaiian corals. Limnology and Oceanography, 66(6), 2393–2407. Portico. https://doi.org/10.1002/lno.11760
Results

Price, J., Smith, A., Dobson, K., & Grottoli, A. (2020). Airbrushed Coral Sample Preparation for Organic Stable Carbon and Nitrogen Isotope Analyses v1 (protocols.io.bgi7juhn). Protocols.io. doi:10.17504/protocols.io.bgi7juhn
Methods

Richmond RH, Jokiel PL (1984) Lunar periodicity in larva release in the reef coral Pocillopora damicornis at Enewetak and Hawaii. Bull Mar Sci 34:280-287. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233692712_Lunar_Periodicity_in_Larva_Release_in_the_Reef_Coral_Pocillopora_Damicornis_at_Enewetak_and_Hawaii
Methods

Rodrigues, L. J., & Grottoli, A. G. (2006). Calcification rate and the stable carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen isotopes in the skeleton, host tissue, and zooxanthellae of bleached and recovering Hawaiian corals. Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta, 70(11), 2781–2789. doi:10.1016/j.gca.2006.02.014
Methods

Rodrigues, L. J., & Grottoli, A. G. (2007). Energy reserves and metabolism as indicators of coral recovery from bleaching. Limnology and Oceanography, 52(5), 1874–1882. doi:10.4319/lo.2007.52.5.1874
Methods

Schneider, C. A., Rasband, W. S., ... (n.d.). ImageJ. US National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA. Available from https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/
Software

Schoepf, V., Grottoli, A. G., Levas, S. J., Aschaffenburg, M. D., Baumann, J. H., Matsui, Y., & Warner, M. E. (2015). Annual coral bleaching and the long-term recovery capacity of coral. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 282(1819), 20151887. doi:10.1098/rspb.2015.1887
Methods

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Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
id	Coral fragment identifier code	unitless
full_species_name	Full species name. Genus and species name of coral	unitless
genus	Genus name of coral	unitless
collection_site_name	Collection site name location where coral was sampled from	unitless
lat	Collection site latitude; South is negative.	decimal degrees
lon	Collection site longitude; West is negative.	decimal degrees
collection_max_depth	Collection site depth range minimum	meters
collection_min_depth	Collection site depth range maximum	meters
coral_collection_date	Coral collection date date when coral was sampled in ISO 8601 format yyyy-mm-dd	unitless
biomass	Tissue biomass of each fragment	mg cm-2
lipid	Total lipid concentration of each fragment	kilojoules per gram of dry weight (kJ gdw-1)
protein	Total soluble protein concentration of each fragment	kilojoules per gram of dry weight (kJ gdw-1)
chl	Chlorophyll a & c2 concentration	micrograms per centimeter squared (æg cm-2)
d13Ch_e	The d13C (δ13C) of the coral host minus the δ13C of the algal endosymbiont	permil (0/00)
d15Nh_e	The d15N (δ15N) of the coral host minus the δ15N of the algal endosymbiont	permil (0/00)

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Instruments

Dataset-specific Instrument Name	PDZ Europa 20-20 isotope ratio mass spectrometer
Generic Instrument Name	Elemental Analyzer
Dataset-specific Description	All isotope samples were combusted using a PDZ Europa ANCA-GSL elemental analyzer interfaced to a PDZ Europa 20-20 isotope ratio mass spectrometer (Sercon Ltd., Cheshire, UK) at the University of California Davis Stable Isotope Facility.
Generic Instrument Description	Instruments that quantify carbon, nitrogen and sometimes other elements by combusting the sample at very high temperature and assaying the resulting gaseous oxides. Usually used for samples including organic material.

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Project Information

Phenotype and genotype of coral adaptation and acclimatization to global change (Coral Adaptation)

Coverage: Oahu, HI and Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

Project Summary:
Overview: This study proposes to evaluate the adaptation and acclimatization capacity of eight species of Hawaiian corals to long-term exposure of elevated temperature and ocean acidification (OA) conditions using a two-part approach: 1) a survey of natural corals found across natural temperature and pCO2 gradients and 2) a two-year long mesocosm study which will expose corals collected in part 1 to a range of temperature and pCO2 conditions expected this century. In both approaches, the phenotypic (i.e., physiological and biogeochemical) responses of corals to future climate change will be

measured in conjunction with the already funded genotypic (i.e., genomic and transcriptomic) responses of the same corals by Dr. Rob Toonen. This study will address variation at both the population and species level. It will also be the first study to examine the effects of elevated temperature and pCO2 on corals in replicated mesocosms over a multiannual timeframe with a comprehensive suite of physiological, biogeochemical, and genomic tools.

Intellectual Merit: Coral reefs are among the most diverse ecosystems on the planet, housing an estimated 25% of marine species. Yet, they appear to be especially susceptible to the effects of climate change and ocean acidification. To date, the assumption has been that corals will not be able to adapt because the rates of anthropogenically driven ocean acidification and climate change are too high. But there is little experimental evidence to evaluate that assumption. Recent models highlight the critical importance of that assumption in determining coral extinction risk, and several recent studies (including a couple of recent ones from Grottoli's group) indicate that previous studies may have underestimated the potential for corals to acclimatize or adapt to global change. Here, quantitative, empirical estimates of the potential for long-term coral acclimatization and adaptation under global change scenarios will be made. The proposed study includes ~97% of the corals in the Hawaiian archipelago, yielding extensive spatial and biological relevance for the study. Lastly, this research brings together the expertise of Grottoli at OSU (coral physiologist and biogeochemist), Toonen at UH (marine molecular biologist), and McCulloch at UWA (geochemist) in a unique collaboration that blends a large suite of genetic, physiological, and biogeochemical tools to build an unprecedentedly comprehensive picture of coral adaptation and acclimation to global change. Thus, this work has the potential to transform our conceptual and empirical understanding of how corals respond to rapid environmental change.

Broader Impacts: Half of the species in the Hawaiian archipelago are endemic, making Hawaiian coral reefs a high priority for biodiversity conservation. Results from the proposed work will be used for adaptive management plans that collaborator Dr. Toonen is involved in with the goal of preserving Hawaiian coral biodiversity in a UNESCO World Heritage Site -- the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument (PMNM). PMNM encompasses the northwestern Hawaiian Islands, is renowned as one of the most pristine and highly protected coral reefs remaining on the planet, is the single largest conservation area under the U.S. flag, and one of the largest marine conservation areas in the world. This project will provide a bridge between short-term, single-species studies and longer-term, multi-species responses to global change in reef community settings. Findings from this work will be communicated at scientific meetings, through peer-reviewed journal publications, and via press releases. Grottoli will also bring her research and enthusiasm for marine science into her classrooms and onto the podium when giving general audience and professional talks. She has an established track record of recruiting and promoting under-represented students and will continue to do so. This project will recruit 3 undergrads and 2 high school students for supported senior thesis/independent research and provide an environment that will foster their passion and skills necessary to pursue career options in STEM disciplines.

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Funding

Funding Source	Award
NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)	OCE-1459536

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