

Goniocorella dumosa

What is *Goniocorella dumosa*?

Goniocorella dumosa is a stony coral and is one of the framework-building corals which can form large localised reefs sometimes up to 40 metres high and 700 m wide, as seen on the Campbell Plateau at 334 m depth. *Goniocorella* forms highly complex reef structures with many fine branches fusing together increasing the strength of the structure. Some reefs are formed by *Goniocorella* alone, in others it is found along with *Desmophyllum dianthus*.

Where can it be found?

It is commonly found throughout the New Zealand region, especially concentrated on the Chatham Rise. It has been sampled from 88 m to 1488 m but is most frequently found at depths between 300 and 400 m. It has been recorded from South Africa, Indonesia and Japan, and appears to be restricted to the southern hemisphere.

Secondary reef framework

Like the coral *Lophelia pertusa*, *Goniocorella* also provides a base for secondary reef framework-builders such as *Madrepora oculata*. *Goniocorella* typically forms conically-shaped reefs, which have a large diameter at the base and taper to a point in the centre.

What are the pictures?

Images from top:

Goniocorella dumosa from the Southwest Pacific Ocean (© S.D. Cairns, 1995).

Goniocorella dumosa with *Desmophyllum dianthus*, New Zealand (© www.exploretheabyss.com).

Thicket of *Goniocorella dumosa* collected from New Zealand (© S.D. Cairns, 1995).

This fact-sheet was downloaded from www.lophelia.org and produced for the Deep-sea Conservation for the United Kingdom Project.



***Goniocorella* forms complex 3D structures from the interwoven skeletal branches**

