



PEST IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Sundial Snails



Description - The Sundial snail (*Heliacus areola*) has a very distinct pattern and is fairly easy to distinguish from other snails. These snails prey upon Zoanthid colonies and often tuck themselves away tightly between polyps during the day. Like many, predators the sundial snails are nocturnal feeders with a consumption pace that is slow but steady.

Cure - Manual removal, and/or fresh water dipping of zoanthid colonies.

Aiptasia Anemones



Description – Aiptasia anemones come in many forms and colors, and are relatively benign. They are fast growers and can overpopulate ones aquarium quickly if left unchecked. For this reason, it is best to remove any that are found on live rock as hitchhikers before they gain a foothold inside the aquarium.

Cure - Manual removal, Kalkwasser injection, or Joe's Juice.

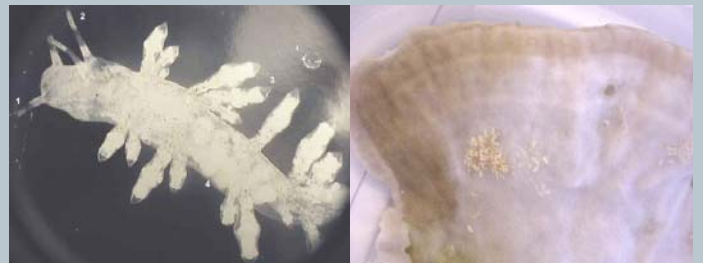
Acropora Red Bugs



Description – Red bugs are extremely small parasites that irritate Acropora corals, preventing proper polyp extension, color loss, loss of growth and eventual death of the infected SPS. They are hard to visualize due to their small size and can appear yellow instead of red.

Cure – Interceptor treatment (2-3 times, one week apart) of the whole reef tank. An interceptor dip of new SPS colonies and frags will prevent addition of red bugs to the aquarium. However, Red Bug eggs may be unaffected by the dip and still be introduced to the tank.

Montipora Eating Nudibranch



Description – The Montipora eating nudibranch feeds upon Montipora species and is extremely hard to remove from an aquarium once infected.

Cure - Treatment of the coral and rock outside of the main tank with Tetra Oomed has been successful in removing the nudibranch and eggs for some aquarists. Manual removal works also, however preventing its addition to ones aquarium through proper quarantine methods is best.



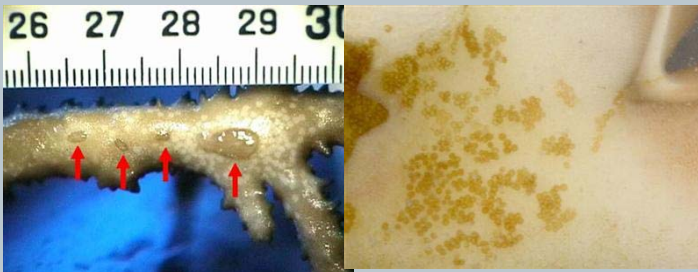
Zoanthid Eating Nudibranch



Description – The zoanthid eating nudibranch feeds upon all zoanthids, and is nocturnal in nature. Left unchecked they are able to completely destroy all zoanthids within an aquarium.

Cure - Manual removal through fresh water dipping of zoanthid colonies and scraping off of the eggs from zoanthid polyps and surrounding rocks. Fresh water dipping doesn't affect the eggs.

Acropora Eating Flatworm



Description – The Acropora eating flatworm feeds upon SPS corals. This pest is extremely difficult to identify and remove from ones system. There is no effective cure at the present time. The eggs are laid typically on dead coral skeleton, where the flatworms have already killed the tissue. Down in crevasses where water flow is restricted is another high incident area to find the eggs. However, the eggs have been found on superglue, plugs, and even the side of zoanthids.

Cure - Manual removal.



This is an image of an Acropora affected by flatworms. Damage/bleaching can be seen at the base of the coral.

Flatworms



Description – Flatworms are an unsightly pests, that can reproduce to massive numbers in the aquarium environment. Their body juice can be toxic to some reef inhabitants when present in too high a concentration. The flatworm's toxic body juice can be excreted once a flatworm dies.

Cure - Manual siphoning and/or Salifert Flatworm exit. Fresh water dipping of incoming frags and corals also works well to prevent their introduction into the reef aquarium.

Pyramid Snails



Right picture – The white snail shell on the left is a pyramid snail, while the brown shell on the right belongs to a similar looking snail, but one that doesn't prey on clams.

Description – Pyramid snails are small, elusive (from a size smaller than a grain of white rice to just larger) and exclusive feeders on clams.

Cure – Manual removal, or fresh water dip. Most fishes that prey on them successfully will also prey on clams, so it's a vicious cycle. Manual removal is still the only successful option aside from removing all clams from your tank and starving the pyramid snails.