

## New recruitment of *Acropora* Oken, 1815 in South Andaman: A proof of recovery of Corals after 2010 mass bleaching

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**ABSTRACT:**

Mass bleaching of corals in 2010 seriously affected the corals in Andaman group of islands. Rise in Sea Surface Temperature (SST) was the primary reason due to less than normal rainfall during the bleaching period. Now three years after the bleaching episode the corals in South Andaman seems to recovering. The primary indicator of recovery being the new recruitment of corals especially *Acropora* spp. (branching corals) throughout the reef areas along with the increase in overall live coral cover. Multiple surveys were conducted in three stations viz. North Bay, Chidiyatapu and Marina Park along the eastern coast of South Andaman during this study and all the sites were found to have new recruitment of *Acropora* spp. which were severely affected during 2010 mass bleaching.

**Keywords:**

*Acropora* spp., Bleaching, Corals, Recovery, Recruitment.