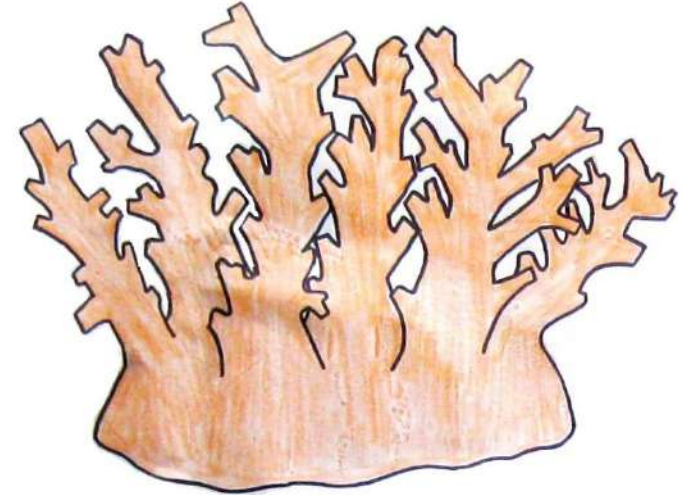
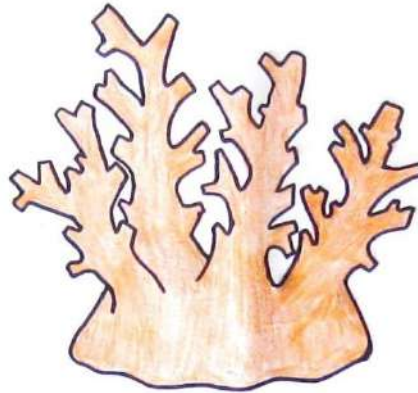
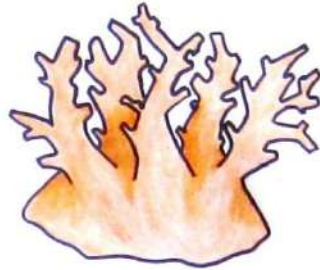


Coral Regrowth

Branching and Table corals can grow 5 - 10 cm per year. Boulder corals 1 - 2 cm per year

In Fiji, corals spawn in October and November, tiny new colonies are usually first visible by about April or May



Less than 5 cm
Less than 1 year old

5 - 20 cm
1 - 2 years old

20 - 40 cm
3 - 4 years old

Over 40 cm
Over 4 years old



As well as new corals starting, coral can overgrow old skeletons, and different corals can overtake a dead area

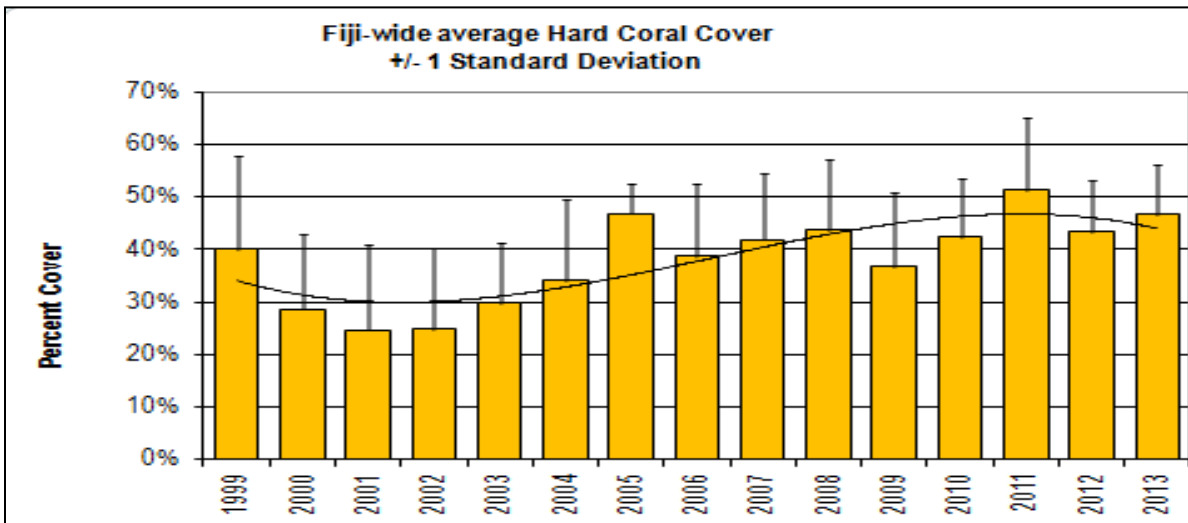


Acropora table coral re-grows over an old reef skeleton
Vatu-i-Ra Passage



Sinularia soft coral colonising old hard coral habitat
Honeymoon Island, Taveuni

In Fiji, coral has recovered from mass stress events within 5 years; after cyclones, sometimes only 2 years



Stress events affecting corals

- 2000 - 2002 Mass bleaching (high temperatures)
- 2005 - 2006 Large Crown of Thorns outbreak (coral eating starfish)
- 2009 Storms and flooding of Nadi area
- 2012 Cyclone Evan

Fiji's average coral cover = 40 - 45%
(Pacific in general 25%)