# Chlorophyll-a, cyanobacteria, fluorescence and total protein in healthy and diseased sponges in the Bahamas and Belize from 2008-2011 (Etiology of ARBS sponge disease project)

Website: https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/3609 Version: Version Date: 2012-01-25

#### Project

» <u>Aplysina Red Band Syndrome: Investigating the etiology, pathogenesis, and ecology of an emerging marine</u> <u>disease</u> (Etiology of ARBS sponge disease)

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## **Table of Contents**

- Dataset Description
  - Methods & Sampling
  - Data Processing Description
- Data Files
- Parameters
- Deployments
- <u>Project Information</u>
- Funding

# **Dataset Description**

To assess the interacting effects of nutrients and disease on *Aplysina cauliformis*, we provided nutrient enrichment to healthy and diseased sponges in a factorial experiment at LSI in the summer of 2009. Impacts on ARBS virulence (rate of lesion growth) and host response (growth and physiology of both the sponge and its cyanobacterial symbionts, *Synechococcus spongiarum*) were assessed.

#### Methods & Sampling

Sponge samples were collected from patch reefs near the Perry Institute for Marine Science, Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas.

#### **Data Processing Description**

Units for measurements of the analyses: chla: micrograms of chlorophyll-a per milligram of sponge wet weight; cyanobacteria: cells per 2886 micometers viewing area; fluorescent yield: no units; total protein: micrograms protein per mg sponge tissue (lyophilized prior to extraction)

# Data Files



[ table of contents | back to top ]

#### Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
analysis_type	chlophyll-a;cyanobacteria; fluorescence; total protein measured	
condition	initial condition of sponge specimen; healthy or diseased	text
nutrients_treatment	experimental treatment; enriched or none	text
sponge_id	identification number of the sponge specimen used in the experiment	1 to 12
rack_id	rack number: sponges were placed on racks for experimental exposure with 2 sponges per rack	1 to 24
initial	initial measurement of the analysis. chla: micrograms of chlorophyll-a per milligram of sponge wet weight;cyanobacteria: cells per 2886 micometers viewing area;fluorescent yield: no units;total protein: micrograms protein per mg sponge tissue (lyophilized prior to extraction)	
final	final measurement of the analysis; same units as initial measurements	number

[ table of contents | back to top ]

#### Deployments

#### lab\_Olson\_ARBS

Website	https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/58772	
Platform	Unknown Platform	
Start Date	2008-07-21	
End Date	2011-08-07	
Description	Study of disease on a marine sponge.	

# [ table of contents | back to top ]

## **Project Information**

# Aplysina Red Band Syndrome: Investigating the etiology, pathogenesis, and ecology of an emerging marine disease (Etiology of ARBS sponge disease)

The emergence of new diseases and the re-emergence of adapted forms of familiar diseases have renewed interest in the roles of pathogens in natural ecosystems. Pathogens are important regulating factors within host populations, as they can impact distribution, growth and reproduction. In the marine environment, epidemic outbreaks of unknown diseases have been reported with alarming frequency over the last two decades, yet little is known regarding the causes of these diseases or their effects on hosts, host populations, and communities.

Gochfeld and colleagues recently described a new disease affecting Caribbean sponges of the genus Aplysina, a dominant component of Caribbean coral reef communities. Aplysina Red Band Syndrome (ARBS) is widespread in the Caribbean, and has rapidly increased in prevalence, making it an ideal study system to increase our understanding of emerging diseases on coral reefs. The research is timely and studying a non-coralline model of marine diseases is significantly beneficial, particularly in light of restrictions on collecting corals, even for research purposes.

The goals of this research proposal are to characterize the etiology (causes) and pathogenesis (effects) of ARBS as a newly emerging disease on coral reefs. This research addresses four objectives: (1) Characterize the microbial community associated with ARBS;

(2) Examine host responses to ARBS at the ecological, physiological and biochemical levels:

(3) Examine the relationships between ARBS prevalence and other members of the coral reef community; and

(4) Investigate the effects of environmental stressors on ARBS susceptibility and virulence. The research takes a multidisciplinary approach to the study of marine diseases.

#### [ table of contents | back to top ]

#### Funding

Funding Source	Award
NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)	<u>OCE-0727996</u>
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[ table of contents | back to top ]