# Coral morphometry for experiments investigating impact of ocean acidification on coral (S. siderea) calcification and morphometry.

**Website**: https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/722026
**Data Type**: experimental
**Version**: 1
**Version Date**: 2017-12-28

**Project**
» A combined boron isotope, pH microelectrode and pH-sensitive dye approach to constraining acid/base chemistry in the calcifying fluids of corals (CoralCalcifyFluid_pH)

| Contributors | Affiliation | Role |
|---|---|---|
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## Dataset Description

Corallite height (µm) and percent-infilling ('%-I') data for *S. siderea* specimens (shown by 'ID') after 60 days growth in the experimental treatments for the study: Impact of ocean acidification on coral (Siderastrea siderea) calcification and corallite morphology.

See also related datasets for *Siderastrea siderea* seawater chemistry and calcification rates:

Seawater chemistry
Calcification rates

Data are published in:


Horvath, K.M., Ries, J.B., Castillo, K.D., Westfield, I.T., Armstrong, P., Courtney, T., 2016, Next-century ocean acidification and warming both reduce calcification rate, but only acidification alters skeletal morphology of reef-building coral *Siderastrea siderea*. Scientific Reports 6: 29613. doi: 10.1038/srep29613


Please see manuscript for complete methodology.

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## Data Files

| File |
|---|
| **722026.csv** (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 1.91 KB) MD5:6e3197082f15ad03d592bb6c5fb99b0c<br>Primary data file for dataset ID 722026 |

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## Parameters

| Parameter | Description | Units |
|---|---|---|
| Treatment_temp | Temperature for the treatment (experimental condition) | degrees Celsius |
| Treatment_CO2 | CO2 concentration for the treatment (experimental condition) | ppm-v |
| Replicate | Replicate tank number | 1,2,3 |
| Height | Corallite height after 60 days growth in the experimental treatments | micrometers (um) |
| Percent_infilling | Percent infilling (%-I) | percent |

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## Instruments

| | |
|---|---|
| **Dataset-specific Instrument Name** | Nikon SMZ1500 |
| **Generic Instrument Name** | Microscope - Optical |
| **Generic Instrument Description** | Instruments that generate enlarged images of samples using the phenomena of reflection and absorption of visible light. Includes conventional and inverted instruments. Also called a "light microscope". |

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## Project Information

**A combined boron isotope, pH microelectrode and pH-sensitive dye approach to constraining acid/base chemistry in the calcifying fluids of corals (CoralCalcifyFluid_pH)**

**Website**: http://nuweb2.neu.edu/rieslab/

**Coverage**: Marine Science Center, Northeastern University

*Description from NSF award abstract:*
The anthropogenic elevation of atmospheric CO2 is causing the oceans to become more acidic, which may make it more challenging for corals to build their skeletons and, ultimately, entire reef structures. How corals respond to future ocean acidification will largely depend on how the pH of the internal fluid from which they produce their skeletons-their so-called calcifying fluid-is impacted by the surrounding seawater. It is therefore essential that current methods are refined to accurately measure the pH of corals' calcifying fluids in order to understand and, ideally, predict their responses to CO2-induced ocean acidification. In this project, a three-pronged approach to measure calcifying fluid pH within three species of reef-forming corals will be used to assess how their calcifying fluid pH responds to experimentally induced ocean acidification. This research will improve our understanding of corals' responses to ocean acidification and thus has the potential to inform the decisions of policy makers and legislators seeking to mitigate the deleterious effects of rising atmospheric CO2 on marine ecosystems. The work will support the development of three early career scientists, a postdoctoral fellow, graduate students, and undergraduate researcher assistants-several of whom are from underrepresented groups in the earth and ocean sciences. Results will be widely disseminated through publications, conference presentations, the PIs' websites, an educational film, coursework, and outreach activities at area schools, museums, and science centers.

Corals and other types of marine calcifiers are thought to begin the mineralization of their calcium carbonate

skeletons by actively elevating pH of their calcifying fluid, thereby converting bicarbonate ions (comprising ~90% of seawater dissolved inorganic carbon) to carbonate ions, the form of carbon used in calcification. This project will compare the combined boron isotope, pH microelectrode, and pH-sensitive dye approach to measure the calcifying fluid pH of three species of scleractinian corals, and to assess how their calcifying fluid pH (a primary factor controlling their calcification) responds to experimentally induced ocean acidification. As a result this multi-pronged approach to measuring calcifying fluid pH of the same coral species under equivalent culturing conditions will permit the first systematic cross-examination of the validity of these independent approaches. The combined approach will also yield values of calcifying fluid pH with uncertainties that can be quantified via inter-comparison and statistical treatment of these independent measurements. Importantly, this multi-pronged approach will be used on three coral species that due to differences in the carbonate chemistry of their native waters possess differing capacities for proton regulation at their site of calcification; a deep, cold-water coral (strong proton-pumper); a shallow, temperate coral (moderate proton-pumper); and a shallow, tropical coral (weak proton-pumper). Target outcomes of this research include (1) cross-examination of the validity of three independent approaches to estimating coral calcifying fluid pH, (2) quantification of uncertainty associated with the three approaches to estimating coral calcifying fluid pH, (3) advancement of our mechanistic understanding of coral calcification, (4) exploration of the mechanism by which ocean acidification impacts coral calcification, (5) elucidation why corals exhibit such varied responses to ocean acidification, (6) identification of coral types most vulnerable to ocean acidification, (7) exploration of so-called "vital effects" that limit the use of corals in paleoceanographic reconstructions, and (8) quantitative constraint of existing models of coral biomineralization.

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## Funding


| Funding Source | Award |
|---|---|
| NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE) | OCE-1357665 |
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