Relationship between adult abundance and successive coral recruitment density in the Tioman Island Marine Park, Malaysia

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Abstract
It is important to understand coral recruitment as coral reefs are regionally in decline. The pattern and magnitude of coral recruitment strongly influence conservation options and management efforts. This study revealed a relationship between adult abundance and coral recruitment patterns at four reef sites in the Tioman Island Marine Park, Malaysia. The coral cover percentage was assessed using a video transect method and coral recruitment was estimated using settlement plates deployed at each reef site. Famine Acropora doms led to the adult cover percentage at most reef sites, while recruitment densities were dominated by acroporids and pocilloporids. The present evidence indicates a positive correlation between adult Acropora and recruitment recruits (r = 0.79, p = 0.02), suggesting that reef recovery may be dependent on the local coral pool. http://www.sharcnet.org.uk/dat/15554748329029.54.1493.© 2017 Nature Research Centre.