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## Seaweed Collected from Heron Island in the Southern Section of the Great Barrier Reef, Australia

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The survey of seaweed collection was made at the beach and two stations of seaward reef margin (coral platform) where drains at low tide from October 28 to 29, 1993. The materials collected have dried and were carried back to Usa Marine Biological Institute Kochi University.

### General observation

Heron Island consists of a sand cay, approximately 30 acres in area, situated near the western end of a reef about 6 miles long. The wide south-west part of the cay are bordered by beach rock, followed seaward by narrow inshore gutter.

There were the fronds of green algae, *Enteromorpha clathrata* attached to fragments of coral and shell on the beach. In the reef flat, two types of algal vegetation were observed. One type was characterized by conspicuous vegetation of encrusting coral algae and the another type was characterized by brown algae, *Colpomenia* sp. and red algae, *Laurencia* sp. There were specially seaweed communities in the areas where many-corals have been damaged. On the rear side of the reef flat, several species of *Halimena*, *Udotea* and *Caulerpa* were predominated among living corals.

Cribb (1966) has reported on the algal flora on the reef flat of Heron Island as follows: Algal mat *Laurencia pannosa* and *L. obtusa* are usually the most important species in the sand-binding. Contributing to the mat are numerous other inconspicuous species, *Gelidiella acerosa*, *Laurencia flexilis*, *L. nanilosa*, *Dictyosphaeria intermedia*, *Jania adhaerens*, *Hypnea* spp., *Boodlea composita* and *Tolypiocladia gloneata*. These species were collected on the beach and the reef flats on the Heron Island in this time. There were several species of *Caulerpa* and *Halimeda* on the sandy floor of the ponds. The drifts of *Sargassum* sp. were found on the seaward reef margin. but the numbers of seaweed collected is not much comparable to the flora of other coral reefs.

### List of seaweeds collected from Heron Island

Chlorophyta

- Enteromorpha clathrata* (Roth) Grev.
- Boodtea composita* (Harv.) Brand
- Valonia ventricosa* J. Ag.
- Dictyosphaeria intermedia* Weber-van Bosse
- Codium spongiosum* Harv.
- Halimeda discoidea* Dcne
- Halimeda opuntia* (L.) Lamx

*Caulerpa racemosa* (Farssk.) J. Ag.  
*Caulerpa cupressoides* (Vahl) C. Ag.  
*Udotea* sp.

#### Phaeophyta

*Sphacelaria furcigera* Kuetz.  
*Dictyota bartayresii* Lamx.  
*Padina gmmnospora* (Kuetz.) Vickers  
*Colpomenia* sP.  
*Sargassum* sp.

#### Rodophyta

*Gelidiella acerosa* (Forssk.) Feldm. & Hamel  
*Gelidiella* sp.  
*Jania adhaerens* Lamx  
*Amphiroa foliacea* Lamx.  
*Hypnea nidulans* Setchell  
*Hypnea* sp.  
*Lourenzia obtus* (Huds.) Lamx.  
*L. Pannosa* Zan. Prox.  
*L. flexilis* Setch.  
*Laurencia* sp.

#### References

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- CRIBB A.B., 1978. Algae. In, *Coral Reef*, edited by P. Mather and I. Bennett, Surrey Beatty & Pty Ltd., pp. 18-28.

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