



Fig. An aggregation of more than 250 *Drupella rugosa* and *Cronia margariticola* on a *Platygyra sinensis* colony at Hoi Ha Wan, Hong Kong

Corallivorous gastropods in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's coral communities support two muricid gastropod species which feed on live coral tissue: *Drupella rugosa* and *Cronia margariticola*. They strip the coral skeleton of tissue, leaving a white feeding scar which quickly discolours with settling algae. They feed from the edge of the live/dead tissue interface and are often found clumped at this interface.

Drupella spp. prey preferentially on the branching corals *Acropora* spp. and Pocilloporidae, which dominate many Indo-Pacific reefs (e.g. Turner 1992, 1994; Cumming 1996, under review). But these corals are rare and absent, respectively, in Hong Kong, and most coral communities are dominated by massive and encrusting species (49 coral species were recorded by Veron 1982). Here, *Drupella rugosa* preys on species that would usually be avoided, like *Platygyra sinensis*. We have observed colonies of the following genera being grazed by *Cronia margariticola* in Hong Kong: *Acropora*, *Cyphastrea*, *Favia*, *Favites*, *Goniastrea*, *Hydnophora*, *Leptastrea*, *Montipora*, *Pavona*, *Platygyra*, *Plesiastrea* and *Porites*.

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