



## **ReefBudget: Methodology**

*(Indo-Pacific version)*

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## 1 Census-based approaches to quantifying reef carbonate budgets

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The Indo-Pacific *ReefBudget* methodology follows the framework production states approach (Perry et al. 2008) and is an extension of the methodology developed to support estimates of net biologically-driven carbonate budgets ( $\text{kg CaCO}_3 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ) on Caribbean reefs (see <http://geography.exeter.ac.uk/reefbudget/> and Perry et al. (2012)). It uses a census-based approach to quantify cover/abundance of carbonate producing (corals and crustose coralline algae (CCA)) and bioeroding taxa (urchins, parrotfish and micro- and macro-endolithic taxa), and integrates these data with published and field-derived measures of species/genera specific carbonate production and erosion rates to support resultant budget calculations. The methodology can be applied to different reef zones and depths as necessary to support spatial upscaling efforts.

While similar to the current format of the original Caribbean methodology, there are some important differences in this Indo-Pacific version. First, carbonate production by corals and coralline algae is calculated using geometric relationships derived from individual colony morphology, rather than calculated using rugosity at the transect level. These calculations are supported by relevant coral growth rate and skeletal density data from Indo-Pacific studies. Second, framework erosion by microborers (e.g., cyanobacteria, fungi) and macroborers (e.g., sponges, polychaete worms, bivalves) is calculated based on published rates and as a function of the proportion of substrate in each transect available for bioerosion. The method does not attempt to estimate sediment production rates *per se*, but to some extent this can be estimated for grazing bioeroders (urchins and parrotfish). Other aspects of sediment production and post-depositional lithification are not presently quantified within this approach.

### *Key points:*

- This methodology arises from field-testing a revised version of the Caribbean *ReefBudget* methodology on coral reefs in East Africa, Chagos and the Maldives in both lagoonal and fore-reef environments during 2013-2018. The methodology has thus been refined over a number of years and differences to the Caribbean method take account of differences in the availability of data on growth/erosion rates, and inherent reef community differences between the regions.
- At present the protocol and supporting online database and spreadsheets are drawn from the entire Indo-Pacific. However, as more data on coral growth rates etc. become available, there is the potential to adapt this approach to become more region specific.
- As for the Caribbean *ReefBudget* methodology, these methods can in principle be applied to any reef site and zone, but variations in depth and regional growth rates need to be considered. If using the pre-set data and calculations in the default spreadsheets, it is suggested that sites are limited to between 2 and 10 m depth, because this is the depth interval from across which the majority of data is drawn.
- Data should be collected along depth contours parallel to the reef crest. If there are obvious differences in coral or fish community composition between areas of reef within the same zone, the establishment of multiple survey sites should be considered.

## 2 Site selection, characteristics and transect placement

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### 2.1 Site characteristics

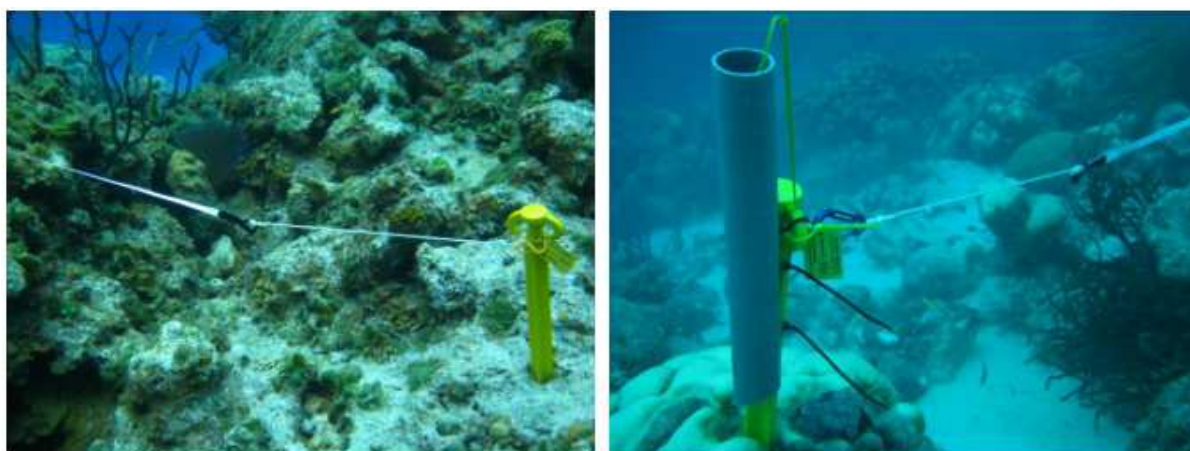
In order to provide a general characterisation of each study area, the following types of data should be recorded/collected at each site.

1. **Management status** – i.e., whether the site is in a no-take marine protected area, if certain activities are restricted within the site, etc.
2. **Local environmental variables** – whether there are nearby inputs of freshwater, sediment, nutrients, wave exposure, etc.
3. Estimates of **sediment thickness**. This can be done by probing pockets/veneers of sediment accumulated on the reef while conducting surveys.

### 2.1 Transect placement

At each survey depth a minimum of four (preferably six) 10 m transects should be established as 'master' survey lines along which all data (except parrotfish data) are collected.

- Each transect should be established either along depth contours parallel to the reef front/crest or along discrete (depth-consistent) reef structures (e.g., spurs, patch reefs) as deemed most appropriate to the site.
- Transects should be placed approximately 5-10 m apart.
- Each transect should ideally (if permitting allows) be marked at the start and end with a fixed marker pin (Fig. 2.1). This provides the opportunity to establish a series of long-term monitoring sites as a resource for either subsequent budget assessments or other forms of reef monitoring.
- Marker pins should be more than 10 m apart, and the tape used for the survey line should be pulled taut and secured tightly.
- Each measuring tape used should have a ~50 cm length of 'leader' cord attached at the start of the tape – this ensures that the start point of each measured transect (where marker stakes are placed to avoid areas of live coral) is not biased by the presence of available substrate for peg deployment (Fig. 2.1).
- A map of the location and the layout of transects relative to notable aspects of the gross reef structure, in addition to global positioning system co-ordinates of the transects, is highly recommended.



**Fig 2.1|** Survey tape attached to marker stake showing 50 cm long 'leader' cord from clip to main tape.

### 3 Determining rates of benthic carbonate production

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Coral reefs are 3-dimensional, rugose structures, and their topographical complexity often varies both within and between reefs as a function of benthic composition (e.g., abundance of different coral morpho-taxa) and geomorphological structure (e.g., spurs and grooves). Therefore, in order to accurately determine the surface area covered by calcifying biota, this topographical complexity must be accounted for. However, the most commonly used methods of point-intercept or line-intercept transects struggle to accurately account for the three-dimensional complexity of coral reefs, and the organisms that occur on cryptic surfaces (Goatley and Bellwood 2011). Reef rugosity has most commonly been measured by running a chain or weighted rope of known length ( $d_1$ ) over the substrate conforming to the topography and measuring the planar distance covered by the chain ( $d_2$ ). Rugosity can then be determined as  $d_1/d_2$  (Hubbard et al. 1990; Mallela and Perry 2007). While this rugosity index can be applied as a conversion factor to individual transects to derive a more accurate measure of the true surface area covered by each taxon, it is important to note that this method alone would not account for differences in benthic community diversity and composition driven by complexity, such as canopy effects (e.g. shading of the substrate by large coral colonies), and true measurement of the abundance of organisms on vertical or overhanging surfaces.

In order to combat these problems, the *ReefBudget* approach uses a variation of the chain-intercept method as described in Goatley and Bellwood (2011), where organisms on all surfaces under the master survey line are assessed. The *ReefBudget* method thus integrates the chain transect method with a line-intercept transect (Box 1). Using a tape laid out to conform to the true surface profile of the reef, all overhangs, vertical surfaces and horizontal surfaces can be surveyed (i.e., if the transect line crosses over a table coral, the upper and lower surfaces of the coral, plus the benthos under the canopy, and potentially the benthos on the central pillar of the table coral should be recorded). This level of accuracy is best achieved by using a ~1 m length of flexible tape, and recording the distance covered by each taxa/substrate category within each linear 1 m of transect. This methodology is typically considerably more time consuming than standard point-intercept or line-intercept methods (particularly in high complexity reefs) but provides far more accurate data on the actual surface area covered by, and abundance of, each benthic component on the reef. It also ensures that benthic cover on cryptic surfaces is accurately included. The complimentary collection of swath-type video footage or sequential photographs for each transect is recommended to provide a record of substrate characteristics and information on gross transect morphology.

For the purpose of framework budget estimates, the key requirement is to quantify the abundance and morphology of corals and other calcareous encrusters. Collection of abundance data on other non-carbonate producing groups is readily incorporated into the surveys, and may provide an essential context for understanding resultant budgetary data (for example, on reefs that have undergone phase shifts to macroalgal dominance). We recommend that data on the following groups are collected:

#### ***Essential categories to collect for Indo-Pacific ReefBudget framework calculations***

- Coral to genera<sup>1</sup> and morphological group (a generic 'hard coral' category is also provided that will calculate the carbonate production rate based on *mean* coral extension rates and density, but colony morphology has to be recorded).
- Crustose coralline algae (CCA) crusts (including non-differentiated other encrusters e.g., serpulids, bryozoans).
- Rubble
- Sediment
- Rock/limestone pavement

### **Desirable**

- Macroalgal cover<sup>2</sup> (it is useful to differentiate between fleshy and coralline algae, and we suggest *Halimeda* spp. as well as other articulate coralline algae are recorded separately)
- Turf algal cover
- Sponges (both eroding and non-eroding)
- Soft coral cover<sup>2</sup>
- Anenomes
- Corallimorpharians
- Clams and other sessile invertebrates

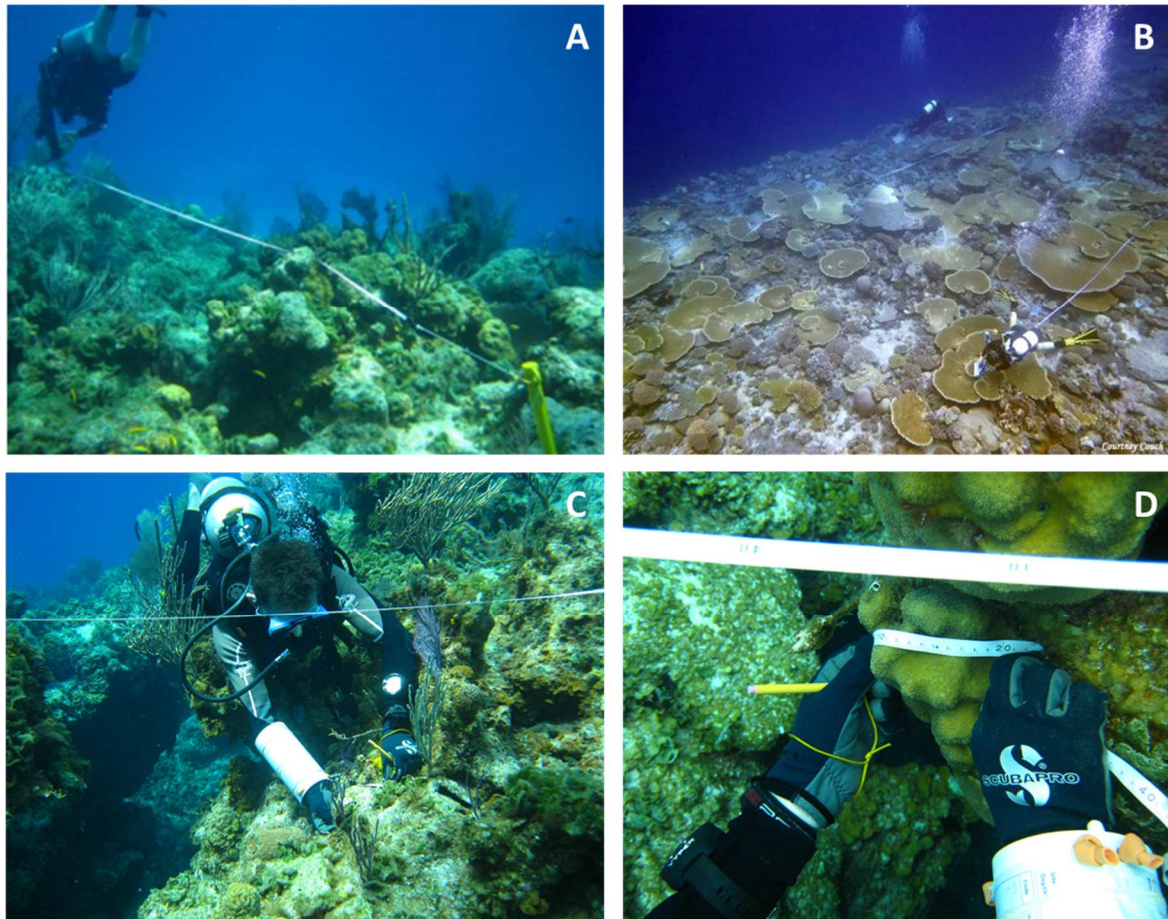
<sup>1</sup> The Indo-Pacific coral finder (<https://www.byoguides.com/coralfinder/>) provides a useful field guide to the main genera of interest. For a more in-depth and broader cover of coral species and identification, the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) has an extensive online library of images and distributions of corals across the Indo-Pacific (<http://coral.aims.gov.au/>).

<sup>2</sup> We recommend looking under any macroalgal or soft coral canopy to determine if there is living CCA beneath the algal canopy. In these cases a mixed classification is recorded so the most accurate assessments of CCA cover/production or macroalgal cover are obtained.

### **BOX 1| Benthic Surveys – Recommended field methodology**

- (1) Insert a marker stake into the reef (not directly into a living coral colony) and then lay out the 10 m master transect line along the depth contour (parallel to the reef crest) before fixing to a second marker stake and pulling taut (the two stakes should be a little >10 m apart – Figs. 3.1 A, B).
- (2) Record data on survey sheets using recommended taxa specific codes (see Appendix A). It is essential that the correct coding system is followed on data entry because these codes link to the taxon and morphologically specific growth rates, density and equations required to calculate carbonate production estimates.
- (3) Measure the surface distance (cm's) covered by each benthic component directly beneath the master tape within each linear 1 m of the 10 m survey transect (Figs. 3.1 C). This is best done using a short (~1 m) length of flexible tape that can be laid out to conform to the exact surface profile of the reef (Figs. 3.1 D). When the tape crosses a coral colony that is >1 m in size (i.e., it stretches across two linear metres of the master tape) it is necessary to record the full size of the colony to the nearest centimetre (i.e., if the colony is 115 cm this should be recorded as 115 cm, not 100 cm and 15 cm). In these cases, assign the colony to the metre in which the majority of the colony lies. Care should be taken to include measures of the surface cover within all cracks and crevices along the linear transect.
- (4) Where the transect crosses areas of complex living coral cover (e.g., branching *Acropora*, overlapping table corals) the methodology is most effective if as reliable an estimate as possible is made of the distance covered by living tissue under the transect line.
- (5) Where the tape crosses open branching corals, the diameter of these branches should be measured and then the total number of living branches that intersect below the guide tape should be counted e.g., if branches average 2 cm diameter, and 15 branches intersect the line, the total living cover for that colony would be recorded as 30 cm. This avoids over-estimating living coral cover as might occur if a tape is draped over the entire colony. Dead branches should be counted in the same way and recorded accordingly.
- (6) In contrast to some benthic surveys the distance covered by sand should be included in the measures made, as should rubble.





**Fig 3.1** | (A, B) Master transect line, attached to a fixed marker stake, being laid out; (C) Diver recording linear distance cover by each benthic component immediately beneath the main 10 m transect line; (D) Care should be taken to ensure that the flexible substrate measuring tape conforms to the exact surface of the reef beneath the master transect line.

### 3.1 Calculating coral carbonate production rates based on colony size and morphology

In order to derive accurate estimates of carbonate production, the density ( $\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-3}$ ) of the particular primary (coral) or secondary producer (crustose coralline algae) in question needs to be combined with measures of the linear growth rate ( $\text{cm}\cdot\text{yr}^{-1}$ ), the geometric shape and the current size of each colony/crust. This produces a production rate for each colony in  $\text{kg CaCO}_3 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . These data can then be combined with the planar area of each transect (normally  $10 \text{ m} \times 1 \text{ cm}$ ) to produce a carbonate production rate for the reef in  $\text{kg CaCO}_3 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , where  $\text{m}^{-2}$  refers to planar reef area.

In the *ReefBudget* calculations the following assumptions about colony morphology are made: massive colonies are assumed to grow uniformly in a hemispherical fashion; encrusting, foliose and plating colonies are assumed to be growing primarily at the edge of the colony (and at 10% of this growth rate across the remainder of the colony); and for branching and columnar colonies, the proportion of the colony area of growing branch tips is assumed to be growing at published rates, and the remainder of the colony at 10% of these rates. For corals with multiple plates, fronds or tables, it is thus important to measure each plate or frond separately.

Resultant carbonate production equations are:  
Massive:

$$CP_i = \left( \left( g + \left( \frac{x}{\pi} \right)^2 \right) \pi - \left( \frac{x}{\pi} \right)^2 \pi \right) \cdot d$$

Submassive:

$$CP_i = g \cdot x \cdot d$$

An exception are submassive *Pocillopora* and *Stylophora* which are calculated with the branching formula below, as for these taxa the submassive category is used to differentiate thickly branched growth forms from the more delicate ones.

Encrusting/plating/foliose:

$$CP_i = h \cdot (g \cdot d) + 0.1g \cdot x \cdot d$$

Branching/corymbose/columnar:

$$CP_i = (x \cdot c_a \cdot g \cdot d) + (x - c_a \cdot x) \cdot 0.1g \cdot d$$

Where  $CP_i$  = carbonate production for colony  $i$ ,  $g$  = growth rate,  $x$  = surface length of colony,  $d$  = skeletal density,  $h$  = the number of colony “edges” (normally 2), and  $c_a$  = proportion of colony that are growing axial branches. Measuring the linear surface of growing tips on branching corals during surveys is time-consuming. Therefore, in order to calculate the amount of each colony that represents growing axial branch tips, we measured the size of branching colonies and the length of growing tips of each colony across 337 colonies in northern Mozambique (238 *Acropora*, 50 *Pocillopora*, 26 *Porites*, 23 other – Table 1) and these conversion factors are used for all branching and columnar taxa in the calculation of carbonate production.

To calculate the production for a single transect over a year, the following equation is used:

$$CP_j = \sum_{i=1}^n CP_1 + CP_2 + \dots + CP_n$$

Where  $CP_j$  is the total carbonate production of both corals and crustose coralline algae for transect  $j$  in kg  $\text{CaCO}_3 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ .

To estimate the production rate of the reef, the following equation is used:

$$Gprod_j = CP_j / \left( \frac{10000}{l} \right)$$

Where  $Gprod_j$  is the carbonate production rate of both corals and crustose coralline algae for transect  $j$  in kg  $\text{CaCO}_3 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , and  $l$  is the transect length in centimetres.

**Table 1** | Ratio of growing axial branches/tissue to colony size

Genera	Morphology	Growing tips: colony size	95% CI	N
<i>Acropora</i>	arborescent	0.059	0.009	28
	branching, corymbose	0.190	0.012	145
	digitate	0.253	0.016	65
<i>Millepora</i>	branching	0.241	0.049	7
<i>Pocillopora</i>	branching	0.364	0.027	33
	submassive	0.338	0.032	17
<i>Porites</i>	branching	0.221	0.056	21
	columnar	0.214	0.060	5
<i>Seriatopora</i>	branching	0.141	0.023	6
<i>Stylophora/Stylocoeniella</i>	branching, submassive/columnar	0.327	0.064	10



Note that the above calculations and conversion factors are already integrated into the Default spreadsheets. For branching and columnar growth forms of genera that do not appear in the table above we currently use average conversion factors for the relevant morphologies. Additional site-specific data can be collected as needed.

The data entry sheets '*Indo-Pacific Carbonate Production*' can be downloaded from the [ReefBudget website](#). General site data and details of transects conducted should be completed on the 'Site Description' tab, and census data within each linear meter of transect added into the 'Data Entry' tab. The 'Analysis' tab then calculates the percent cover and carbonate production (where applicable) for each genus/morphotype for each transect. There is also a tab to calculate micro- and macro-bioerosion (see sections 4.3 & 4.4 for details). All data are then summarised in the 'Results' tab, which gives transect and site level data on total carbonate production, production by major coral guilds, life-history strategies (after Darling et al. (2012), derived from Coral Trait Database: <https://coraltraits.org/traits/233>) and genera. It also provides percent cover data for the same categories.

The spreadsheets have been pre-set to use Indo-Pacific average growth rates and skeletal densities for each coral genus and morphology in question and Indo-Pacific average CCA calcification rates from studies that investigated growth over >1 year. All rates can be manually modified in the 'Calcification Rates' tab if more local or depth-specific data are available.

**NB.** The online supporting file '*IP Calcification and bioerosion rates\_database*' summarizes currently available coral growth and skeletal density data (we are aware of) for Indo-Pacific corals and CCA, as well as available macro- and microbioerosion rates. It is an on-going intention to continue to add any newly available data to this resource. If you aware of relevant data that does not appear here, please forward such information to Chris Perry ([c.perry@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:c.perry@exeter.ac.uk)) and Ines Lange ([i.lange@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:i.lange@exeter.ac.uk)).

### 3.2 Coral growth rates and density measures

The collection of new data on rates of coral linear extension and density from each reef site used for budget estimates is clearly a problematic issue, because it requires significant amounts of coral sampling, analysis, and time. In the Caribbean, there is relatively low coral diversity and a relatively extensive (compared to other regions) dataset of both coral growth rate and density data (see original *ReefBudget*). The Indo-Pacific provides a very different situation, with well-developed reefs along wider longitudinal (~32°E to ~78°W) and latitudinal (~30°N to ~30°S) gradients, experiencing an arguable broader range of environmental conditions and with much higher biodiversity of corals (~1400 species compared to ~70 in the Caribbean). These factors mean that currently available data on growth rate and density gathered on one species in the Eastern Pacific may not accurately represent the same, or similar species in the Red Sea or Western Indian Ocean. Furthermore, the number of species for which there are well-replicated data at different geographic locations is, unsurprisingly, very small compared to Caribbean species (the massive corals *Porites lobata* and *lutea* are an exception, because they are often used in paleoclimate studies). Additionally, difficulties in accurately identifying many corals to species level in the field suggests that the use of genera level rates and growth form averages from across the Indo-Pacific region are at present a necessary requirement. Where no taxa specific rates are available, mean values for all hard corals (coded HC) of each growth form currently substitute for these missing rates (see '*IP Calcification and bioerosion rates\_database*' file). These constraints need to be acknowledged in any assessments of carbonate production rates.

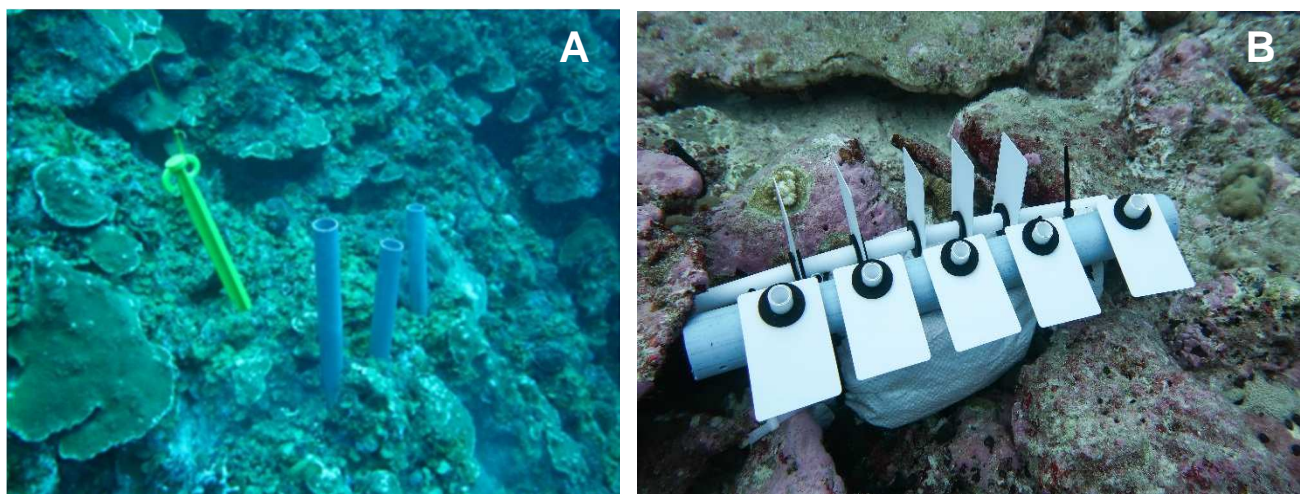
### 3.3 Crustose coralline algal growth and density measures

Far fewer published data are available for CCA growth rates and density than for corals, making quantitative estimates of CCA production less reliable. Studies in the Indo-Pacific used *Porites* blocks or PVC substrates, which were deployed in reef settings from 6 months to 5 years and

analysed for lateral and vertical growth of algal patches or directly for annual calcium carbonate production (e.g. Pari et al. 1998, 2002; Kennedy et al. 2017; Lewis et al. 2017; Morgan and Kench 2017). Strikingly, calcification rates were on average 5 times higher in studies that deployed substrates for less than one year, indicating faster growth in the initial settling period. In the default mode, the spreadsheet therefore uses an average of rates from studies that investigated growth over >1 year only (see '*IP Calcification and bioerosion rates\_database*' file). It is recommended, where possible, that simple experimental substrates are deployed for periods of 12-24 months in order to quantify calcification rates by calcareous encrusters within the study site in question (Box 2).

### **BOX 2| CCA growth experiment – Recommended field methodology**

A wide range of potential substrates have been deployed in past experiments to quantify CCA production rates (Kennedy et al. 2017). Deployment of either lightly sanded PVC pipe (Fig. 3.2 A) or small plastic cards (such as those used for bank or library cards) ~ 8 x 5 cm (Fig. 3.2 B) in the proximity of each transect line are recommended (n = 6-9 pipes, or 5-6 cards), both for ease of deployment and because community recruitment closely matches that observed on surrounding natural substrates. These experimental substrates can be monitored to document CCA settlement and growth either through being photographed frequently (~every 3 months) or via a subset being retrieved approximately every 6-12 months for analysis (depending on the number of pipes/tiles and the amount of encrusting growth). Pipes/cards should be retrieved only after a bag has been secured around them with cable tie. These substrates can then be examined visually to ascertain percent cover and thickness of calcareous encrusters (and photographed in detail), and a weight per unit area derived. This is achieved by dissolving the CCA crust in 10% hydrochloric acid and dividing the dry weight by the surface area of the internal and external portions of the 10 cm length of pipe (see Morgan and Kench (2014) for further details), or by the surface area of cards (further differentiated by surface orientation if appropriate).



**Fig 3.2|** (A) Array of PVC settlement pipes placed in the reef framework with an adjacent marker stake; (B) Array of PVC cards (in both horizontal and vertical orientations) deployed on a reef.

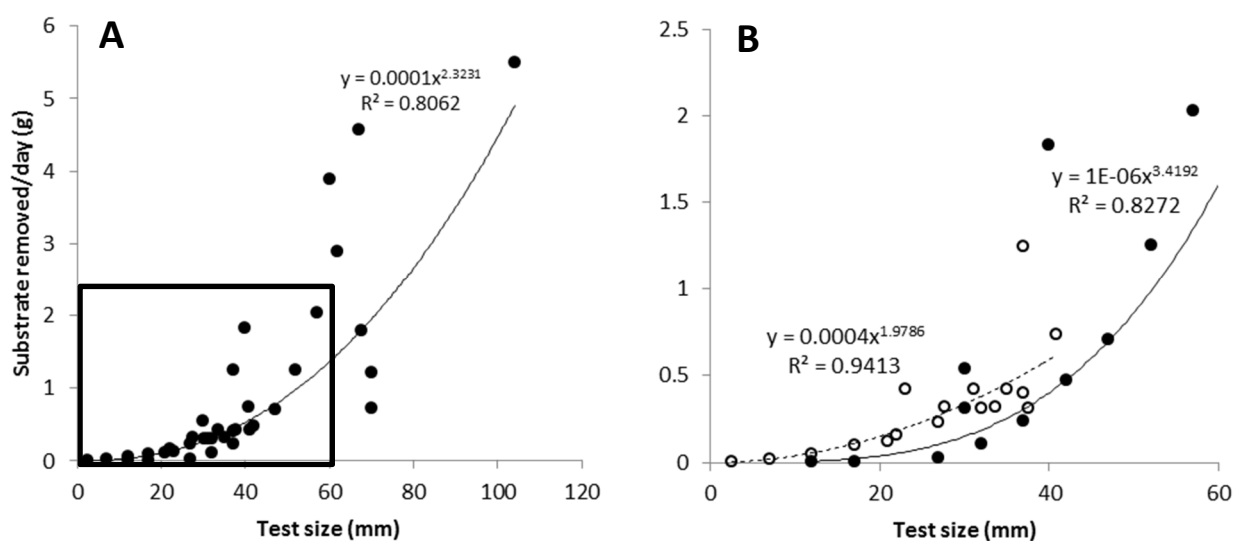
## 4 Determining rates of reef framework bioerosion

Bioerosion is defined as the corrosion of hard substrates by living agents (Neumann 1966). A wide variety of organisms contribute to this process, including not only particular species of fish and urchins, but also a variety of endolithic organisms (Golubic et al. 1981; Perry et al. 2008). These include boring sponges, bivalves, worms, cyanobacteria, chlorophytes, rhodophytes and fungi.

### 4.1 Urchin bioerosion

One group of major bioeroding grazers are the Echinoidea (sea urchins). These comprise two groups, one of which consists of species that live on soft bottoms and primarily ingest sediment and have negligible impact on carbonate budgets, and a second group which feed by scraping algae and other organisms off hard substrate (Bak 1990). Bak (1994) suggests that the main agents of echinoid bioerosion belong to the family Diadematidae, (*Diadema* spp., and *Echinothrix* spp.), and the genera *Echinometra*, *Echinostrephus*, and *Eucidaris*. These urchins can erode coral reef substratum either by burrowing behaviour, which weakens the reef structure and increases a reef's susceptibility to storm damage, or directly through abrading the hard substrate through feeding behaviour. The *ReefBudget* methodology includes estimations of the latter of these two mechanisms of erosion.

In order to quantify echinoid bioerosion, *ReefBudget* uses a census-based approach and collects data on the abundance and size of urchins within 10 x 1 m or 10 x 2 m belt transects along the 'master' transect lines (Box 3). Abundance/size data are then combined with published Indo-Pacific urchin erosion rate data. This approach is predicated on the premise that the rate of erosion by urchins is a function of species and size, with larger individuals causing more erosion (Bak 1994). A variety of techniques have been used to estimate bioerosion rates by urchins, including quantifying the CaCO<sub>3</sub> content of the gut (e.g., Conand et al. 1997) or faecal pellets (e.g., Glynn et al. 1979), both with or without estimations of reworked sediment, spine abrasion and gut turnover (e.g., Stearn et al. 1977; Griffin et al. 2003). This makes it difficult to compare the urchin bioerosion rates derived from different studies. However, evaluating published data on erosion rates against test size across all urchin species suggest a relatively tightly correlated plot. Figure 4.1A shows the aggregated bioerosion rates relative to test size for six species of urchins across 9 studies in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, including the eastern tropical Pacific.



**Fig. 4.1** | (A) Bioerosion rates (substrate removed/day (g)) for urchins across a range of test sizes (Indo-Pacific data only). Data aggregated from: Russo 1980; Downing and El-Zahr 1987; McClanahan and Muthiga 1988; Bak 1990; Mokady et al. 1996; Conand et al. 1997; Mills et al. 2000; Carreiro-Silva and McClanahan 2001; Herrera-Escalante et al. 2005. (B) Close up of bioerosion rates for *Diadematidae* (solid circles) and *Echinometra mathaei* (open circles).



From this perspective, a single rate per urchin test size can be applied as follows:

$$\text{Bioerosion rate (g urchin}^{-1} \text{ day}^{-1}) = 1 \cdot 10^{-4} \cdot x^{2.323}$$

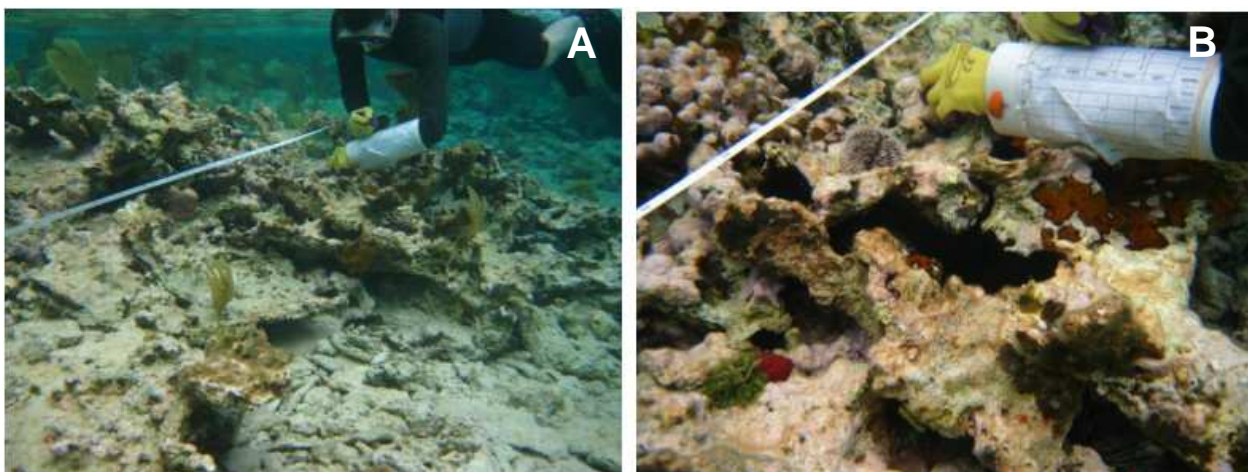
where x is the test diameter of an urchin in millimetres.

However, a more detailed assessment of the data suggests that at the genus/family level the relationship between test size and bioerosion rate may differ. In general, *Echinometra mathaei* tend to have higher bioerosion rates than Diadematidae in the smaller size classes (Fig. 4.1B). Separate equations are therefore used in the 'Data Analysis IndEQ' tab within the '*Indo-Pacific Urchin Erosion*' spreadsheet that can be downloaded from the [ReefBudget website](#):

- Diadematidae (*Diadema* spp. and *Echinothrix* spp.):  
Bioerosion rate (g urchin<sup>-1</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>) =  $1 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot x^{3.4192}$
- *Echinometra mathaei*: Bioerosion rate (g urchin<sup>-1</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>) =  $4 \cdot 10^{-4} \cdot x^{1.9786}$
- Other: General urchin bioerosion rate (g urchin<sup>-1</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>) =  $1 \cdot 10^{-4} \cdot x^{2.323}$

### BOX 3| Urchin Surveys – Recommended field methodology

- (1) Conduct a 1 or 2 m wide belt transect along each 10 m transect line (Fig 4.2 A).
- (2) The number and size classes of each bioeroding urchin species are recorded. Size classes are the width of the test (shell excluding any spines): 0-20 mm, 21-40 mm, 41-60 mm, 61-80 mm, 81-100 mm etc. A scale bar on the side of a dive slate can help discriminate categories (Fig 4.2 B).



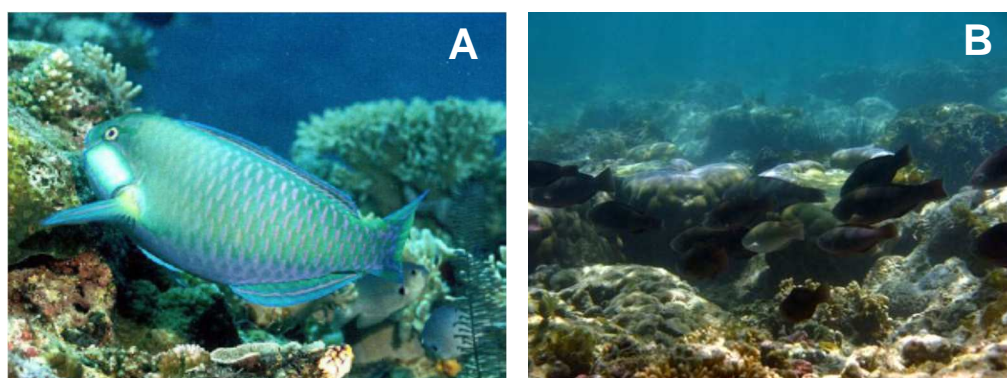
**Fig. 4.2|** (A) Diver surveying urchins within an area 1 m either side of the master transect line; (B) Abundance and size class data for each species are recorded on the relevant survey sheet.

#### 4.1.1 Calculation of the amount of urchin bioerosion

The rate of bioerosion per urchin per day (g) is calculated using the relevant equations and the median of each size class. This rate is then multiplied by the number of individuals in each size class to yield the total daily rate of bioerosion per size class for each species. The total daily rate per size class is then multiplied by 365 to yield the total bioerosion rate per size class per year. Total bioerosion per size class per year is then summed to yield the total bioerosion by each species per year and these can be summed to yield a total rate for all urchins for the transect. Total erosion is then divided by the transect area to yield urchin bioerosion per metre squared, and converted to kg m<sup>-2</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>. The data entry sheets '*Indo-Pacific Urchin Erosion*' can be downloaded from the [ReefBudget website](#).

## 4.2 Fish bioerosion

There are a number of fish families whose feeding techniques contribute to the erosion of reef framework (e.g., parrotfish, triggerfish). However, there are only few species which actively erode the reef substratum because many species ingest unattached or reworked sediment and do not erode the reef framework directly. There has been substantial research undertaken on the different feeding modes of herbivorous reef fish, and these have been categorised into three main functional groups: grazers that primarily consume macroalgal fronds; scrapers that remove epilithic algae and sediment from the substrate surface; and excavators that remove part of the reef substratum (Bellwood and Choat 1990). While each of these three groups are important to the resilience and long-term maintenance of coral reefs, only the latter two have significant impacts on reef carbonate budgets, and excavators contribute to a much larger extent than scrapers. Most species that exhibit these forms of feeding are parrotfish (subfamily Scarinae, family Labridae). Excavating parrotfish on Indian and Pacific Ocean reefs primarily are of the genus *Chlorurus*, while most scrapers are *Scarus* spp., although *Cetoscarus bicolor* and larger individuals of both *Scarus rubroviolaceus* and *S. ghobban* are also considered to have an excavating mode of feeding (Bellwood and Choat 1990; Ong and Holland 2010). While other fish families undoubtedly contribute to erosion, the *ReefBudget* methodology concentrates on quantifying erosion rates by parrotfish because this is the major eroding group.



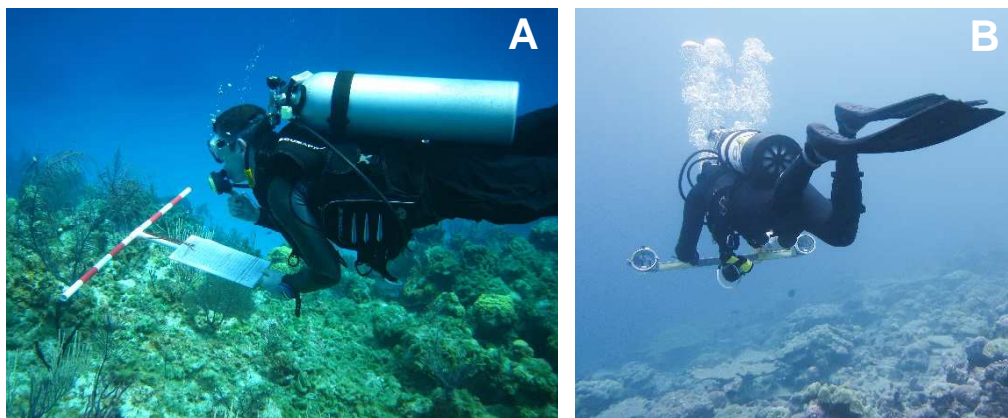
**Fig 4.3|** (A) *Chlorurus strongylocephalus* – an excavating parrotfish species, individuals of which can remove up to 480 kg of reef substrate per year; (B) a school of *Scarus frenatus* – a scraping parrotfish that can remove up to 25 kg of substrate per year.

In light of this, it is pertinent to note that parrotfish size and species are important factors in controlling bioerosion rates. Numerous authors have reported higher bioerosion rates for larger fish (Bellwood 1995; Bruggemann et al. 1996; Ong and Holland 2010), and differences between the eroding capacities of similar sized fish of different species, linked to their feeding functional group (Bruggemann et al. 1996; Hoey and Bellwood 2008). Life stage and size are also important, because feeding rates may be higher in initial phase than in terminal phase fish, and usually decrease with size (Bruggemann et al. 1994a, 1994b; Mumby 2006; Lokrantz et al. 2008 but see Afeworki et al. 2013 and Yarlett et al. 2018). The key parameters that are needed to assess parrotfish bioerosion are thus: species, life phase, fish size and abundance. In this context the *ReefBudget* methodology calculates bioerosion rates for each individual parrotfish within a size class for a particular species, and then combines this with abundance figures to yield rates per size class for each species. Various methods have been used to visually assess parrotfish populations, and it is recommended that an underwater visual census along belt transects conducting instantaneous parrotfish counts (i.e., not timed transects) is used (Box 4). In order to appropriately sample the parrotfish population, we recommend replicate transects of at least 30 m in length, preferably 50 m (Samoilys and Carlos 2000) depending on the size of the reef. Therefore, parrotfish erosion rates at each transect will not be directly comparable with the benthic transects and when calculating carbonate budgets should only be applied at the wider site level.



#### **BOX 4| Fish census – Recommended field methodology**

- (1) Conduct replicate belt transects of at least 30 m length by 5 m width (the spreadsheet has the capacity to accommodate data input from up to 10 transects).
- (2) Observations should be made between 10 am and 5 pm (the period of maximum feeding activity; Bellwood 1995).
- (3) Each transect should be conducted by a diver running out a tape or line of the desired length across the reef zone and waiting for ~5 minutes after laying the line before conducting the survey to allow fish to return to normal activity after the transect line has been set.
- (4) The diver then swims slowly along the line noting the species, life phase and total length of each parrotfish (Fig. 4.4 A). Total length is estimated within the following classes: 5-10 cm; 11-20 cm; 21-30 cm, 31-40 cm etc. It is recommended that at the start of each day training of size estimations is conducted by estimating lengths of a random selection of PVC pipe at ~ 3-5 m distance while in the water until the observer estimates are consistently  $\pm 2$  cm (McClanahan et al. 2007).
- (5) An alternative approach is to use a calibrated stereo-video system (DOV) to record parrotfish individuals while swimming along the same number and length of transects (Fig. 4.4 B). Fish can be identified from the video, and the length of each is calculated by a program overlaying pictures from both cameras. This method is considerably more cost-intensive but saves underwater working time and allows one to go back to the recording to look at other species if desired.



**Fig 4.4|** (A) Diver surveying belt transects; (B) Diver using a stereo-video system

#### **4.2.1 Calculation of the amount of fish bioerosion**

The method proposed for calculating bioerosion by fish is based on a model that uses total length and life phase to predict bite rates (bites  $\text{hr}^{-1}$ ), bite volume ( $\text{cm}^3$ ) and proportion of bites leaving scars for each parrotfish species. Currently, this data is very patchy and exists for only a subset of species, but additional data can be added as it becomes available, or if collected as part of the same study (Box 5). An online resource (see '[IP Parrotfish erosion rates\\_database](#)' on the [ReefBudget website](#)) is provided that summarizes available published and unpublished data on bite rates, bite volumes and proportion of bites leaving scars for Indo-Pacific parrotfish species. However, due to the paucity of data it is currently necessary to integrate data from sister species and clades (grouped according to Choat et al. (2012)), where their size range and morphology correspond, and to use averaged values from these. Species without available data were substituted with species of similar size and feeding mode instead of exclusively looking at phylogenetic relationships. Currently, the calculations are only available for fish sizes up to 60 cm; in regions with very large parrotfish, bite volume data may have to be extrapolated to larger size classes and the associated uncertainty acknowledged. Of the three parameters, bite volume likely introduces the biggest error term to the annual carbonate erosion estimate, as measurements in the field have been proven to be very difficult due to shallow bite depth and variable substrate morphology (e.g. Yarlett et al. 2018).

Daily bite numbers and volume removed per day by each individual fish are calculated from bites rates and volumes by integrating length of day, as defined in the 'Site Description' tab (default 12 h), and diurnal feeding activity (83-88%, Bellwood, 1995). The following equation is then used to calculate species specific erosion rates for the median value within each size class:

$$\text{Bioerosion rate (kg.ind}^{-1}\text{yr}^{-1}) = v \cdot s_{prop} \cdot br \cdot d \cdot 365$$

Where  $v$  is bite volume ( $\text{cm}^3$ ),  $s_{prop}$  is the proportion of bites leaving scars,  $br$  is bite rate (bites  $\text{day}^{-1}$ ) and  $d$  is substratum density (default  $1.47 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ , which is the average over all available coral taxa and growth form density data in the '*IP Calcification and bioerosion rates\_database*' resource).

A comparison of published parrotfish erosion rates shows a considerable range in magnitude. There is evidence to suggest that feeding rates may differ across zones and locations (Hoey and Bellwood 2008) and with season and temperature (Ong and Holland 2010; Afeworki et al. 2013). Bite volume has been shown to be affected by food type and water depth (Ong and Holland 2010) as well as microtopography (convex, flat, concave surfaces) (Bellwood and Choat 1990). Therefore, to increase the accuracy of the model predicting bite rates and volumes from parrotfish size it may prove useful to quantify feeding rates and measure bite scars at the survey sites (Box 5). This may be particularly important in regions or sites where parrotfishes can be abnormally large or towards range limits. Obtained rates can be entered into the spreadsheets in place of the current bite rates.

#### **BOX 5| Bite rate and bite volume – Recommended field methodology**

- (1) Identify a focal fish, and follow it for a minimum of 2 minutes, or until it has conducted several bite forays (a patch of closely spaced bites, followed by movement to another patch). This ensures it has acclimatised to the presence of the observer and is behaving naturally. Use your discretion – for some individuals more than 2 minutes of acclimatisation may be necessary.
- (2) Note total length, life phase and species. Then observe the fish for at least 3 minutes (preferably 5 min), noting how many bites are taken, and how many bites leave visible scars (if possible).
- (3) Length, width and, where possible, depth of bites for each species and size class can be measured during additional observations using callipers. As the depth for scrapers and small excavators can be very shallow ( $<0.1 \text{ mm}$ ), assumptions of  $0.1 \text{ mm}$  depth for small excavators and large *S. rubroviolaceus* and  $0.05 \text{ mm}$  for shallower scrapes can be used if necessary (Yarlett et al. 2018). Grazing scars can occur as 1 mark or 2 marks (made by the upper and lower jaws). In the latter case, both marks should be measured and the volume combined. Bite volume is calculated as length\*width\*depth.



**Fig 4.4| (A)** Example of grazing scars on a small *Porites* colony

Data entry sheets for calculating '*Indo-Pacific Parrotfish Erosion*' can be downloaded from the [ReefBudget website](#). General site data and details of the transects conducted, including length and width, should be completed on the 'Site Description' tab. Census data on parrotfish species and size class are added on the 'Data Entry' tab. The 'Density' and 'Biomass' tabs provide an overview of parrotfish density and biomass for each species and size class per transect and per hectare, and the 'Bioerosion Rate' tab provides bioerosion rates by species in  $\text{kg m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  for each transect. The 'Equations' tab is where alterations can be made to bite rates, percent of bites leaving scars and

bite volumes. The 'Results' tab provides site average and transect level data on total bioerosion, abundance and biomass.

**N.B.** At the moment, the parrotfish data entry sheet is set up for Indian Ocean species only. Values for the calculations take into account published bite rates and volumes from the Great Barrier Reef and the Central Pacific to increase data coverage and thereby provide averages for all Indo-Pacific species. If the model is to be used in the Pacific, local species have to be added to the 'Data Entry' tab and the upper table of the 'Equations' tab, and model assumptions of the respective parrotfish group in the lower tables will have to be assigned.

The largest parrotfish species, *Bolbometopon muricatum*, is not included in the *ReefBudget* methodology. The belt transect method used for counts of most species of parrotfish is not suitable to obtain estimates of populations of these large, mobile schooling species. Bellwood et al. (2003) estimated that an average sized *B. muricatum* can consume over 5 tonnes of structural reef carbonate per year. This value is based on high substrate density estimates of 2.44 g cm<sup>-3</sup>. When the average density over all available coral data in the '*IP Calcification and bioerosion rates\_database*' resource (1.47 g cm<sup>-3</sup>) is used, the more conservative erosion estimate is 3428 kg yr<sup>-1</sup> ind<sup>-1</sup>. If *B. muricatum* is known to occur at the study site we recommend conducting an additional appropriate sampling strategy as follows, adapted from Bellwood et al. (2003).

#### **BOX 6| *Bolbometopon muricatum* abundance – Recommended field methodology**

- (1) Conduct at least 6 timed transects of 5 m width and 20 minutes duration, swimming steadily throughout.
- (2) Take GPS points at the start and the end of each transect to obtain transect length. This can also be achieved by attaching a GPS unit to a surface marker buoy and using the 'track' function.
- (3) Record only the abundance of *B. muricatum*
- (4) Bioerosion for each transect by *B. muricatum* is calculated using the formula below. This is then averaged over all transects to provide a site mean bioerosion rate.

$$\text{Bioerosion rate (kg m}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}) = 3428 * N_{BM} / \text{transect area}$$

Where 3428 is the amount of bioerosion per year by an average *B. muricatum* in kilograms, assuming a substrate density of 1.47 g cm<sup>-3</sup>, and  $N_{BM}$  is the number of individuals surveyed.

### **4.3 Macroborer (sponges, bivalves, worms) bioerosion**

Macroborers are defined as those eroders which produce boreholes with diameters >1 mm and include endolithic sponges, polychaete and sipunculid worms, bivalves, decapods and cirripeds. Of these groups, sponges have received the greatest attention because, on a reef-wide basis (and especially within the Caribbean), they typically dominate the macroboring community, comprising 75-90% by proportion of substrate infestation (e.g., Highsmith 1981; Kiene and Hutchings 1994; Perry 1998). In the Indo-Pacific, there are different contributions from macroborers, with worms providing a larger contribution, particularly in the first few years that substrate is available for colonisation (Sammarco and Risk; Tribollet and Golubic 2005; Carreiro-Silva and McClanahan 2012, however see Pari et al. 2002; Chen et al. 2013). In general, the proportion of substrate infested by sponges is reported to range from 30-80% across the Indo-Pacific, with higher values in sites of increased eutrophication or under protection from fishing (Carreiro-Silva and McClanahan 2012). Worms (both polychaetes and sipunculids) can contribute up to ~ 50% of the macro-bioeroder community by volume (Osorno et al. 2005; Tribollet and Golubic 2005; Carreiro-Silva and McClanahan 2012). Bivalves and decapods generally have small contributions to the macro-bioeroder community, but contributions can be high in some settings. Approaches to measuring

rates of macro-bioerosion have primarily relied on two methods: (1) the use of experimental coral blocks left exposed for long periods (Kiene and Hutchings 1994; Osorno et al. 2005; Tribollet and Golubic 2005; Carreiro-Silva and McClanahan 2012); and (2) estimates of internal rates of bioerosion using cored or slabbed corals from which x-rays or CT scans have been taken to determine annual growth rates against which measures of internal substrate removal can be calibrated (e.g., DeCarlo et al. 2015).

One issue that arises when assessing macroboring rates in the Indian and Pacific Oceans is that the macroborer community is generally less well characterised than that of the Caribbean. This is particularly true of clionaid sponges, which are generally cryptic and difficult to identify in the field (Schönberg 2015). To this end, instead of conducting an intensive search of the substrate for clionaid sponges as described in the Caribbean *ReefBudget* approach, the Indo-Pacific methodology utilizes published rates of total macrobioerosion alongside data on substrate available for bioerosion derived from the benthic transects. This consists of all dead carbonate substrate available to bioeroding organisms, including that covered by macroalgae or algal turf, and live coral cover. While both live and soft corals can prevent settlement of most bioeroding sponges, live corals are often colonised by other bioeroders, particularly polychaete worms.

#### 4.3.1 Calculation of the amount of macrobioerosion

Estimates of macrobioerosion are automatically calculated in the '*Indo-Pacific Carbonate Production*' spreadsheet, in the 'Macro & Microbioerosion' tab, based on published rates of macrobioerosion (where available, locally derived rates can be manually entered into the spreadsheet) and factored for available surface area of the reef. All substrate not available to bioeroders (non-carbonate rock and sand) is excluded. The spreadsheets are pre-set with an average macrobioerosion rate based on all currently available published data for the Indo-Pacific region (see '*IP Calcification and bioerosion rates\_database*' file on the [ReefBudget website](#)).

#### 4.4 Endolithic microborer (cyanobacteria, chlorophytes, fungi) bioerosion

The carbonate substrate of reefs can be degraded by the activities of photosynthetic cyanobacteria, chlorophytes and rhodophytes, and heterotrophic fungi and bacteria (Golubic et al. 1981). As with macrobioerosion, assessments of microbioerosion have tended to rely on deploying experimental substrates, predominately dead *Porites* sp. blocks (e.g., Chazottes et al. 1995; Chazottes et al. 2002; Tribollet and Golubic 2005). Most studies have chosen to examine either the bathymetric ranges of individual species, or community composition and succession dynamics of different taxa rather than determining total rates of microboring. Despite data on these processes being sparse, microbioerosion has the potential to contribute to a non-negligible amount of bioerosion on coral reefs, since the published rates are within similar ranges to those of macroborers.

#### 4.4.1 Calculation of the amount of microbioerosion

Estimates of microbioerosion rates are automatically calculated in the '*Indo-Pacific Carbonate Production*' spreadsheet, in the 'Macro & Microbioerosion' tab, based on published rates of microbioerosion (where available, locally derived rates can be manually entered into the spreadsheet) and factored for available surface area of the reef. All substrate not available to bioeroders (mud, sand, non-carbonate rock) is excluded. The spreadsheets are pre-set with an average microbioerosion rate based on all currently available published data for the Indo-Pacific region (see '*IP Calcification and bioerosion rates\_database*' file on the [ReefBudget website](#)).

## 5 Explanations for accompanying Excel spreadsheets

Three spreadsheets are provided for the Indo-Pacific *ReefBudget* methodology to calculate estimates of carbonate production and bioerosion.

The ‘*Indo-Pacific Carbonate Production*’ spreadsheet is where all benthic data is entered. It calculates percent cover of each category, carbonate production and macro- & microbioerosion. It also provides summary data for each transect by coral genus, morphology, life-history strategy (sensu Darling et al. 2012) and other categories.

The ‘*Indo-Pacific Urchin Erosion*’ spreadsheet calculates urchin erosion using either a general equation, or individual equations for two main categories of urchins (*Diadematidae* and *Echinometra mathaei*). It reports urchin density and bioerosion by size class, group and transect. If relevant, urchin density by species can be obtained from one of the tabs.

The ‘*Indo-Pacific Parrotfish Erosion*’ spreadsheet calculates bioerosion by parrotfish surveyed to species and life-phase within 10 cm size categories. It reports density, biomass and bioerosion of parrotfishes at the species and transect level.

**Grey and yellow cells should not be manipulated.** Yellow cells are the results of formula; white cells are where values can be manipulated.

### 5.1 ‘Indo Pacific Carbonate Production’ spreadsheet

#### 5.1.1 Site description

This tab contains instructions for filling out the spreadsheet and space for a description of the study site and period.

	Transect No.							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Transect ID	101							
Survey Date	12/1/2015							
Planar Length (m)	10	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT
Substrate Cover (m)	22.13	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT
Rugosity	2.21	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT

**Fig 5.1.1|** Example of the ‘Site Description’ tab in the ‘Indo-Pacific carbonate production’ spreadsheet

The calculations in the spreadsheet automatically adjust for varying numbers of transects up to a maximum of 8 per site, and also for situations where it may not be possible to complete a full 10 m transect. In the site description tab, it is essential to **allocate a Transect ID** and a **survey date** for each transect in order for the calculations to work correctly.

#### 5.1.2 Data entry

This tab is for entering the data for each transect. It is important to ensure that the **correct codes** are used, and that at least the **final linear metre** is entered into the linear metre column (e.g., if a full transect has been done, this should be 10). **Do not add together measurements of the same benthic category, enter each colony/patch as a separate row.**



Input distance covered by each individual benthic component. Do not add different areas covered by the same component together

Input substrate code

Transect 1									
Substrate Code	Linear Meter (1-10)	Taxon Cover (%)	Taxon	Lifeform	Carbonate production			Substrate Code	
					Mean	95%	105%		
TF	1	6	Turf	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	TF	
TF	1	10	Turf	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	TF	
TF	1	27	Turf	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	TF	
TF	1	7	Turf	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	TF	
TF	1	28	Turf	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	MAC	
SOC	1	3	Soft coral	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	MAC	
SOC	1	6	Soft coral	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	MAC	
HA	1	4	Halimeda	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	SOC	
MAC	1	8	Macroalgae	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	TF	
MAC	2	14	Macroalgae	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	TF	
MAC	2	10	Macroalgae	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	TF	
HA	2	3	Halimeda	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	SOC	
POCB	2	7	Pocillopora	branching	11.37	8.12	14.93	MAC	
ACRB	2	12	Acropora	branching	13.61	5.79	24.64	HA	
TF	2	26	Turf	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	TF	
TF	2	15	Turf	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	TF	
TF	2	13	Turf	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	SOC	
TF	2	15	Turf	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	SOC	
ART	2	4	Articulated coralline algae	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	MAC	
SOC	2	14	Soft coral	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	MAC	
SOC	2	9	Soft coral	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	PORM	
STYB	2	6	Stylophora	branching	5.99	5.15	6.88	CCA	
MAC	3	10	Macroalgae	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	CCA	
MAC	3	13	Macroalgae	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	CCA	
BOR	3	8	Boring sponge	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	CCA	
SOC	3	17	Soft coral	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	POCR	

Input linear metre

Carbonate production immediately under the transect line (g yr<sup>-1</sup>)

Fig 5.1.2| Example of the 'Data Entry' tab in the 'Indo-Pacific carbonate production' spreadsheet

### 5.1.3 Analysis

This tab contains the calculations for benthic carbonate production for each colony of each coral genera and morphology across all transects. Cover immediately under the transect line (cm), percent cover (%), planar production (i.e. the production immediately under the transect line; kg CaCO<sub>3</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup>) and carbonate production per m<sup>2</sup> (kg CaCO<sub>3</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>). **This sheet should not be altered**, except if the **life history strategies** of specific taxa have to be updated.

### 5.1.4 Macro- & Microbioerosion

This tab calculates macro- and microbioerosion. The white cells are published rates of erosion summarized in the supporting 'IP Calcification and bioerosion rates\_database' file on the [ReefBudget website](#). **Rates can be changed if desired**, and the spreadsheet will automatically calculate the erosion using these new rates.

**MACROBIOEROSION**

Calculated or published microbioerosion rate: 0.209 kg/m<sup>2</sup>/yr

95%CI (if known)

Pre-set rate is an average of currently published rates from various Indo-Pacific sites (see supporting file on ReefBudget website)

% available for Macrobioerosion = total cover - cover of sand and seagrass

Transect ID	Transect No.							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rugosity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Available Substrate	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT
Available Area index	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT
Bioerosion (kg/m <sup>2</sup> /yr)	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT
Lower 95% CI	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT
Upper 95% CI	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT

**MICROBIOEROSION**

Calculated or published microbioerosion rate: 0.262 kg/m<sup>2</sup>/yr

95%CI (if known)

Pre-set rate is an average of currently published rates from various Indo-Pacific sites (see supporting file on ReefBudget website)

% available for Macrobioerosion = total cover - cover of sand and seagrass

Transect ID	Transect No.							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rugosity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Available Substrate	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT	NO TRANSECT

Fig 5.1.3| Example of the 'Macro & Microbioerosion' tab in the 'Indo-Pacific carbonate production' spreadsheet



## 5.2 'Indo-Pacific Urchin Erosion' spreadsheet

### 5.2.1 Site description

This tab contains instructions for filling out the spreadsheet to calculate bioerosion of reef substrate by urchins. It is very similar to the '*Indo-Pacific Carbonate Production*' sheet. **Transect ID and the length and width of transects must be entered** for the formulas to work correctly.

### 5.2.2 Data Entry

The number of urchins in each size category for each species should be entered for each transect. If there were no urchins present (either in a size category or an entire transect) the cells can be left blank and the formula will still work. Non-eroding urchins are present in this data entry tab, but are not used to calculate urchin bioerosion.

Transect 1: Urchin Numbers												
Test Size (mm)	<i>Diadema savignyi</i>	<i>Diadema setosum</i>	<i>Echinometra mathaei</i>	<i>Echinostrephus molaris</i>	<i>Echinothrix calamaris</i>	<i>Echinothrix diadema</i>	<i>Heterocentrus spp.</i>	<i>Stromopneustes variolaris</i>	<i>Toxopneustes pileolus</i>	<i>Tripneustes gratilla</i>	Other Species	Total
0-20			2									0
21-40		3										5
41-60												0
61-80												0
81-100		1										1
101-120										1		1
121-140												0
141-160												0
<b>Total No.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

Transect 2: Urchin Numbers												
Test Size (mm)	<i>Diadema savignyi</i>	<i>Diadema setosum</i>	<i>Echinometra mathaei</i>	<i>Echinostrephus molaris</i>	<i>Echinothrix calamaris</i>	<i>Echinothrix diadema</i>	<i>Heterocentrus spp.</i>	<i>Stromopneustes variolaris</i>	<i>Toxopneustes pileolus</i>	<i>Tripneustes gratilla</i>	Other Species	Total
0-20			1									1
21-40												0
41-60		4										4
61-80		1										1
81-100												0
101-120												0
121-140												0
141-160												0
<b>Total No.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

Fig 5.2.1| The 'Data Entry' tab in the 'Indo-Pacific Urchin Erosion' spreadsheet

### 5.2.3 Equations

This tab contains the equations, and the amount of carbonate an urchin in each size category will consume. **These can be adjusted if desired.**

### 5.2.4 Data Analysis GenEQ & Data Analysis IndEQ

These two sheets contain the formulas necessary to calculate the abundance, density and bioerosion by urchins either using the general equation for all urchins (GenEQ), or the individual equations for the two separate groups (IndEQ). If required, total urchin abundance should be obtained from the 'Data Analysis GenEQ' tab.

### 5.2.5 Results

This tab gives the results from using either the general or individual equations for the site, each transect and each size category.

### 5.3 'Indo-Pacific Parrotfish Erosion' spreadsheet

#### 5.3.1 Site description

This tab contains instructions for filling out the spreadsheet to calculate the bioerosion of reef substrate by parrotfish. It is very similar to the previous sheets. **Transect ID and the length and width of transects must be entered** for the formulas to work correctly. The mean daylight period can also be changed (currently set to a default of 12 hours).

#### 5.3.2 Data Entry

Enter the number of each species for each life-history phase and size class for each transect. Again, if no individuals were present, cells should be left blank.

Species	Juvenile Phase		Initial Phase		Terminal Phase				
	8-10cm	11-20cm	21-30cm	31-40cm	11-20cm	21-30cm	31-40cm	41-50cm	51-60cm
Cetoscarus bicolor									
Calatomus carolinus									
Leptoscarus viagiensis									
Hipposcarus harid									
Chlorurus capotaoides									
Chlorurus japonensis									
Chlorurus sordidus			2				2		
Chlorurus strongylocephalus							1		
Chlorurus atrilunula									
Scarus caudofoasciatus									
Scarus falcipinnis									
Scarus ferrugineus									
Scarus festivus									
Scarus frenatus									
Scarus ghobban									
Scarus globeiceps									
Scarus niger									
Scarus prasiognathus									
Scarus psittacus							1		
Scarus rubroviolaceus				1					
Scarus russelli									
Scarus scaber									
Scarus tricolor						1			
Scarus viridifucatus									
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Fig 5.3.1| The 'Data Entry' tab in the 'Indo-Pacific Parrotfish Erosion' spreadsheet

#### 5.3.3 Density, Biomass & Bioerosion Rates

These tabs calculate the density (individuals hectare<sup>-1</sup>), biomass (kg hectare<sup>-1</sup>) and bioerosion (kg CaCO<sub>3</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>) for each species and size class at each transect. Biomass is calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Biomass (kg m}^{-2}\text{)} = (a \cdot (c \cdot \text{TL})^b) / 1000$$

where a and b are averages of length-weight relationships published at fishbase.org (Froese & Pauly 2018), weighted by the number of replicates and the goodness of fit in each study. TL is the total length of the fish in cm and c a conversion factor in case the relationships were derived from standard length instead of total length. Relationships used in the 'Indo-Pacific Parrotfish Erosion' spreadsheet are stated in the supporting 'IP Parrotfish erosion\_ database' file on the ReefBudget website, the value is divided by 1000 to convert the weight from g to kg. Where there was no published relationship available for a particular species, the relationship for a species within the same genera, of similar size and geographic range was used.

#### 5.3.4 Equations

This tab contains the size class specific erosion rates for individual parrotfishes, and the data used to calculate these rates (Fig 5.3.2). This includes: Proportion of bites leaving scars; Substrate density (g cm<sup>-3</sup>); Bite rate (bites minute<sup>-1</sup>); and volume removed per bite (cm<sup>3</sup>) which **can all be changed** as deemed appropriate. Currently, the sheet is pre-set to provide average values from all available data from the Indo-Pacific as summarized in the supporting 'IP Parrotfish erosion rates\_ database' file on the [ReefBudget website](#).

#### 5.3.5 Results

This tab summarises the bioerosion, density and biomass for each species for each transect.

Indian Ocean Species	Size class specific erosion rates										Rates (and substitutes) used (based on phylogeny in Choat et al. 2012, and known differences in size range and feeding behaviour)														
	Initial Phase					Terminal Phase																			
	11-20cm	21-30cm	31-40cm	41-50cm	51-60cm	11-20cm	21-30cm	31-40cm	41-50cm	51-60cm															
<i>Lalaxemus carolinus</i>																									
<i>Lepidocarpus vaigiensis</i>																									
<i>Pogoniasus handi</i>																									
<i>Geosomus ocellatus</i>	2.68	17.90	192.17	232.47		2.68	17.90	192.17	232.47	371.89															
<i>Chlorurus capistratooides</i>	5.92	33.37	125.82	235.25		5.92	33.37	125.82	235.25	235.01	Other <i>Chlorurus</i> spp.														
<i>Chlorurus japonensis</i>	5.92	33.37	125.82	235.25		5.92	33.37	125.82	235.25	235.01	Other <i>Chlorurus</i> spp.														
<i>Chlorurus sodidus</i>	2.96	12.39				2.46	11.20	20.95																	
<i>Chlorurus strongylocephalus</i>	5.30	35.02	260.28	431.54		4.44	34.40	251.20	362.27	484.61															
<i>Chlorurus alikarensis</i>	5.92	33.37	125.82	235.25		5.92	33.37	125.82	235.25	235.01	Other <i>Chlorurus</i> spp.														
<i>Scarus caudofoveolatus</i>											<i>Sc. frenatus</i>														
<i>Scarus falipinensis</i>																									
<i>Scarus feregrinus</i>	0.47	10.56	36.73			0.47	10.56	36.73																	
<i>Scarus festivus</i>	0.32	0.82	1.88			0.32	0.82	1.69			Other <i>Scarus</i> spp.														
<i>Scarus frenatus</i>	0.20	0.56	1.16	17.31		0.15	0.46	1.16	17.31	16.35															
<i>Scarus ghobban</i>	0.85	10.60	33.70	84.17		0.85	10.60	33.70	84.17	193.13															
<i>Scarus glabriceps</i>	0.32	0.82	1.88			0.32	0.82	1.69			Other <i>Scarus</i> spp.														
<i>Scarus niger</i>	2.09	3.48	4.06			1.85	3.33	5.51																	
<i>Scarus praeognathus</i>																									
<i>Scarus psittacus</i>	0.32	0.82	1.88	0.00		0.32	0.82	1.69	0.00	0.00	Other <i>Scarus</i> spp.														
<i>Scarus rubrovittaceus</i>	0.36	8.32	37.66	105.23		1.00	9.84	38.65	91.54	177.31															
<i>Scarus russelli</i>	0.32	0.82	1.88			0.32	0.82	1.69			Other <i>Scarus</i> spp.														
<i>Scarus scaber</i>	0.20	0.56	1.16	17.31		0.15	0.46	1.16	17.31	16.35															
<i>Scarus bicolor</i>																									
<i>Scarus undulatus</i>	0.32	0.82	1.88			0.32	0.82	1.69			Other <i>Scarus</i> spp.														
<b>Proportion of bites leaving scars</b>	Initial Phase					Terminal Phase																			
	11-20cm	21-30cm	31-40cm	41-50cm	51-60cm	11-20cm	21-30cm	31-40cm	41-50cm	51-60cm															
<i>Geosomus bicoloribocellatus</i>	0.43	0.61	0.74	0.83		0.43	0.61	0.74	0.83	1.00															
<i>Chlorurus strongylocephalus/microrhinus/glabbus</i>	0.43	0.61	0.74	0.83		0.43	0.61	0.74	0.83	1.00															
<i>Chlorurus sodidus/spilurus</i>	0.39	0.52				0.39	0.52	0.68																	
Other <i>Chlorurus</i> spp.	0.21	0.46	0.62	0.75		0.21	0.46	0.62	0.75	0.85															
<i>Scarus rubrovittaceus</i>	0.23	0.44	0.61	0.76		0.23	0.44	0.61	0.76	0.90															
<i>Scarus ghobban</i>	0.23	0.44	0.61	0.76		0.23	0.44	0.61	0.76	0.90															
<i>Scarus frenatus/bovaceps/ocellatus/dilatatus</i>	0.28	0.48	0.59	0.66		0.28	0.46	0.59	0.66	0.73															
<i>Scarus niger</i>	0.39	0.47	0.37			0.39	0.47	0.37																	
<i>Scarus feregrinus/persicus</i>	0.07	0.33	0.93			0.07	0.33	0.93																	
Other <i>Scarus</i> spp.	0.28	0.46	0.58			0.28	0.46	0.58																	
<b>Substrate density (g cm<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	147																								
<b>Bite rate (bites min<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	Initial Phase					Terminal Phase					<b>Bites leaving scars min<sup>-1</sup></b>	Initial Phase					Terminal Phase								
	11-20cm	21-30cm	31-40cm	41-50cm	51-60cm	11-20cm	21-30cm	31-40cm	41-50cm	51-60cm		11-20cm	21-30cm	31-40cm	41-50cm	51-60cm	11-20cm	21-30cm	31-40cm	41-50cm	51-60cm				
<i>Geosomus bicoloribocellatus</i>	4.89	4.89	6.56	6.16		4.89	4.89	6.56	6.16	6.01		2.09	3.01	4.84	5.12		2.09	3.01	4.84	5.12	6.01				
<i>Chlorurus strongylocephalus/microrhinus/glabbus</i>	3.67	3.57	8.89	9.09		6.11	3.40	8.58	7.63	7.84		4.14	5.98	8.56	7.55		3.47	5.78	8.33	6.34	7.84				
<i>Chlorurus sodidus/spilurus</i>	16.32	16.29				14.07	14.04	16.84				6.86	8.45				5.55	7.29	11.49						
Other <i>Chlorurus</i> spp.	24.14	16.21	18.60	15.02	24.14	16.21	18.60	15.02	7.84			5.04	7.45	11.62	11.24		5.04	7.45	11.62	11.24	6.63				
<i>Scarus rubrovittaceus</i>	14.15	13.17	13.64	13.66	14.51	14.52	14.01	11.88	10.20			3.23	5.82	8.36	10.41		3.32	6.41	8.58	9.05	3.17				
<i>Scarus ghobban</i>	12.21	15.65	12.21	10.92	12.21	15.65	12.21	10.92	10.92			2.79	6.91	7.48	8.32		2.79	6.91	7.48	8.32	9.82				
<i>Scarus frenatus/bovaceps/ocellatus/dilatatus</i>	14.76	15.02	14.46	13.11	11.20	12.40	14.46	13.11	10.72			4.20	6.93	8.35	8.71		3.18	5.72	8.35	8.71	7.87				
<i>Scarus niger</i>	21.60	22.37	23.05			18.51	18.78	20.82				8.32	10.45	8.51			7.13	8.78	7.63						
<i>Scarus feregrinus/persicus</i>	22.14	19.98	12.94			22.14	19.98	12.94				1.48	6.54	12.06			1.48	6.54	12.06						
Other <i>Scarus</i> spp.	24.32	21.85	23.05			24.32	21.85	20.82				6.91	10.08	13.32			6.91	10.08	12.03						
<b>Volume removed per bite (cm<sup>3</sup>)</b>	0.003977 0.018492 0.123304 0.177612 0.003977 0.018492 0.123304 0.177612 0.182190					0.003977 0.018492 0.123304 0.177612 0.003977 0.018492 0.123304 0.177612 0.182190					<b>Volume removed per day (cm<sup>3</sup>)</b>					4.99 33.33 357.32 544.72 4.99 33.33 357.32 544.72 682.63					9.86 65.23 484.78 803.74 8.27 64.07 467.86 674.71 902.58				
<i>Geosomus bicoloribocellatus</i>	0.003977	0.018492	0.123304	0.177612	0.003977	0.018492	0.123304	0.177612	0.182190			5.51	24.20				4.58	20.86	39.01						
<i>Chlorurus strongylocephalus/microrhinus/glabbus</i>	0.003977	0.018492	0.123304	0.177612	0.003977	0.018492	0.123304	0.177612	0.182190			9.86	65.23	484.78	803.74		8.27	64.07	467.86	674.71	902.58				
<i>Chlorurus sodidus/spilurus</i>	0.001307	0.004534				0.001307	0.004534	0.005375																	

Groups are based on sister species or clades in Choat et al. (2012) and Ronaldo et al. (2014). For references and calculations see supporting file "IPParrotfish erosion" on the ReefBurger homepage

% of day feeding (Bellwood et al. 1995)  
*Chlorurus glabbus* and large parrotfish: 83.3  
*Chlorurus sodidus* and small parrotfish: 87.7

Fig 5.3.2] The 'Equations' tab in the 'Indo-Pacific parrotfish erosion' spreadsheet showing variables used for calculations (proportion of bites leaving scars, bite rate, bite size, % of day feeding and substrate density).



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## Appendix A: Benthic category codes and example data recording sheet

Benthic categories are listed in the table below. Most codes are of the following construction: 3 letters to denote the genus or taxa, and a final letter to denote morphology for corals. The exception is for corals with a free-living morphology (no morphology letter), and for some other non-coral taxa (e.g., DC – Dead coral, TF – turf algae, HA – *Halimeda*). The example survey sheet can be downloaded from the *ReefBudget* website <http://geography.exeter.ac.uk/reefbudget/> in .pdf form.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Taxa</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Taxa</b>	<b>Morphology:</b>
ACA	<i>Acanthastrea</i>	PAS	<i>Phymastrea</i>	B Branching
ACR	<i>Acropora</i>	PLA	<i>Platygyra</i>	E Encrusting
ALV	<i>Alveopora</i>	PLE	Plerogyra	C Columnar
AN	Anenome	PLS	<i>Plesiastrea</i>	D Digitate
ART	Articulated coralline algae	POC	<i>Pocillopora</i>	F Foliose/Frondose
ASR	<i>Astrea</i>	POD	<i>Podabacia</i>	M Massive
AST	<i>Astreopora</i>	POL	<i>Polyphyllia</i>	O Corymbose
BOR	Boring sponge	POR	<i>Porites</i>	P Plating
CAU	<i>Caulastrea</i>	POP	<i>Poritipora</i>	S Submassive
CCA	crustose coralline algae	PSA	<i>Psammacora</i>	T Table
COR	Corallimorph	RCK	Rock	
COS	<i>Coscinaraea</i>	RUB	Rubble	
CTN	<i>Ctenactis</i>	RUBC	Rubble/CCA	
CYA	Cyanophyta	RUBT	Rubble/Turf	
CYC	<i>Cycloseris</i>	SD	Sand	
CYP	<i>Cyphastrea</i>	SEA	Seagrass	
DC	Dead Coral	SER	<i>Seriatopora</i>	
DIP	<i>Diploastrea</i>	SID	<i>Siderastrea</i>	
ECH	<i>Echinophyllia</i>	SOC	Soft coral	
ECP	<i>Echinopora</i>	SCA	Soft coral/CCA	
EUP	<i>Euphyllia</i>	SP	Sponge	
FAV	<i>Favia</i>	STC	<i>Stylocoeniella</i>	
FAT	<i>Favites</i>	STY	<i>Stylaphora</i>	
FUN	<i>Fungia</i>	SYM	<i>Symphyllia</i>	
GAL	<i>Galaxea</i>	TF	Turf algae	
GAR	<i>Gardinoseris</i>	TUR	<i>Turbinaria</i>	
GON	<i>Goniastrea</i>	ZOO	Zooanthid	
GOP	<i>Goniopora</i>			
HA	Halimeda			
HAL	<i>Halomitra</i>			
HC	Hard coral			
HER	<i>Herpolitha</i>			
HYD	<i>Hydnophora</i>			
ISO	<i>Isopora</i>			
LEP	<i>Leptastrea</i>			
LET	<i>Leptoria</i>			
LES	<i>Leptoseris</i>			
LOB	<i>Lobophyllia</i>			
LSP	Limestone pavement			
MAC	Macroalgae			
MCA	Macroalgae/CCA			
MER	<i>Merulina</i>			
MIL	<i>Millepora</i>			
MON	<i>Montastrea</i>			
MOP	<i>Montipora</i>			
MYC	<i>Mycedium</i>			
OCE	Other calcareous encrusters			
OTH	Other non-calcareous encrusters			
OTS	Other sediment producers			
OUA	<i>Oulastrea</i>			
OUL	<i>Oulaphyllia</i>			
OXY	<i>Oxypora</i>			
PAC	<i>Pachyseris</i>			
PAV	<i>Pavona</i>			
PEC	<i>Pectinia</i>			
PHY	<i>Physogyra</i>			

Site:  
Depth:

Transect:

Date:  
Surveyor:

Code as genera + life form

ACA Acanthastrea  
 ACR Acropora  
 ALV Alveopora  
 AST Astreopora  
 CAU Caulastrea  
 COS Coscinaraea  
 CYP Cyphastrea  
 DIP Diploastrea  
 ECH Echinophyllia  
 ECP Echinopora  
 EUP Euphyllia  
 FAV Favia  
 FAT Favites  
 FUN Fungia  
 GAL Galaxea  
 GAR Gardinoseris  
 GON Goniastrea  
 GOP Goniopora  
 HAL Halomitra  
 HYD Hydnohpora  
 LEP Leptastrea  
 LET Leptoria  
 LES Leptoseris  
 LOB Lobophyllia  
 MER Merulina  
 MIL Millepora  
 MON Montastrea  
 MOP Montipora  
 MYC Mycedium  
 OUL Oulophyllia  
 PAC Pachyseris  
 PAV Pavona  
 PLA Platygyra  
 PLS Plesiastrea  
 POC Pocillopora  
 POR Porites  
 PSA Psammocora  
 SER Seriatopora  
 STY Stylophora  
 SYM Symphyllia  
 TUR Turbinaria

HC - Hard coral

**Lifeforms:**

B Branching  
 O Corymbrose  
 C Columnar  
 D Digitate  
 F Foliose  
 P Plating  
 M Massive  
 U Mushroom  
 S Submassive  
 T Table  
 E Encrusting

AN Anenome  
 ART Arti cora algae  
 CCA Crust cora alg  
 CYA Cyanophyta  
 DC Dead Coral  
 HA Halimeda  
 MAC Macroalgae  
 MCA Macroalg/CCA  
 OTH Non-calca enc  
 RUB Rubble  
 RUBC Rubble/CCA  
 RUBT Rubble/Turf  
 SA Sand  
 SEA Seagrass  
 SOC Soft coral  
 SP Sponge  
 TF Turf algae

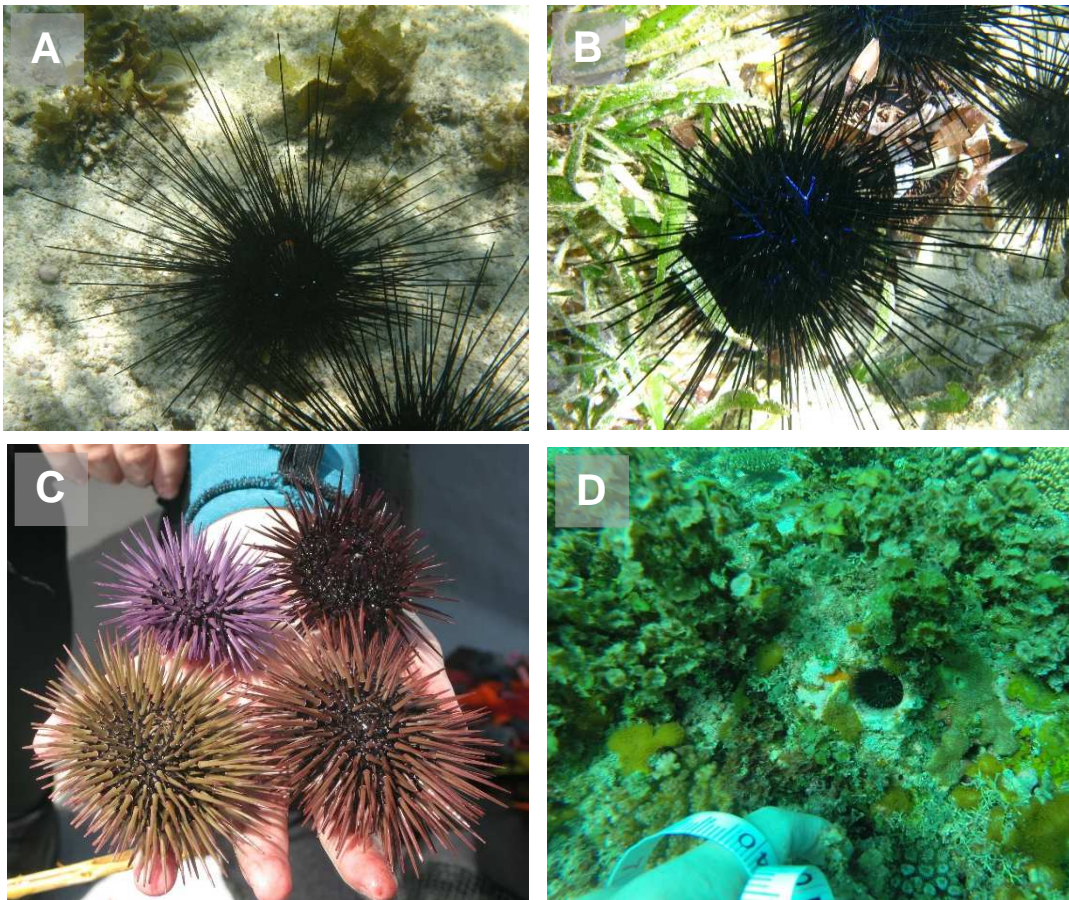
**Urchins**  
(# per 10 sq m)

*Diadema*  
*Echinothrix*  
*Echinometra*  
*Echinostrephus*  
  
*Diadema*  
*Echinothrix*  
*Echinometra*  
*Echinostrephus*

	0-20 mm	21-40 mm	41-60 mm	61-80 mm	81-100 mm	101-120mm
<i>Diadema</i>						
<i>Echinothrix</i>						
<i>Echinometra</i>						
<i>Echinostrephus</i>						
<i>Diadema</i>						
<i>Echinothrix</i>						
<i>Echinometra</i>						
<i>Echinostrephus</i>						

## Appendix B: Common urchin species in the Indo-Pacific

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**Fig. App. B:** Common eroding urchin species in the Western Indian Ocean. (A) *Diadema setosum* (orange ring around anus); (B) *Diadema savingyi* (blue lines); (C) *Echinometra mathaei* in four different colour morphs; and (D) *Echinostrephus moliaris* (note hole diameter is <1 cm).