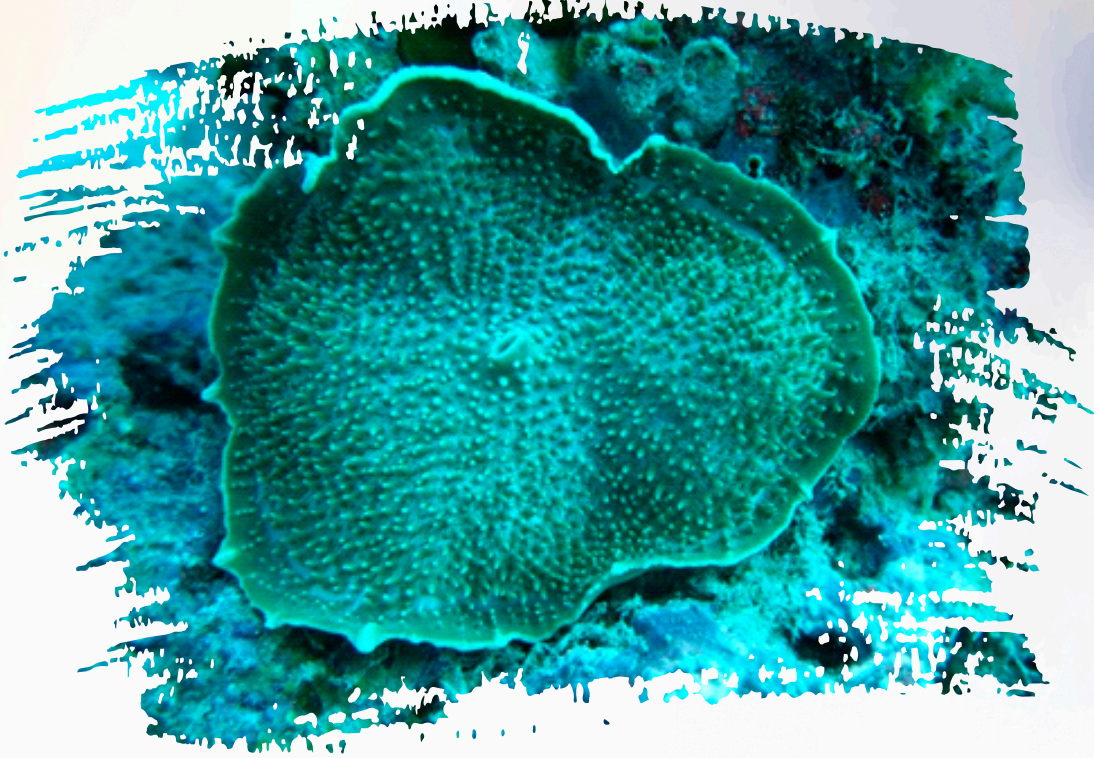


# FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST

JULY, 2024

ONLINE VERSION 1.0



## CNIDARIA: ANTHOZOA: HEXACORALLIA: CORALLIMORPHARIA

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26515/Fauna/1/2023/Cnidaria:Hexacorallia:Corallimorpharia>

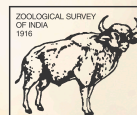
**Key words:** Nematocysts, Soft-bodied, Marine

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**Comments on the checklist:**

E-mail your comments  
and suggestions to improve  
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**ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA**  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

# CNIDARIA: ANTHOZOA: HEXACORALLIA: CORALLIMORPHARIA

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**Introduction:** Corallimorpharia is the order under Subclass Hexacorallia, Class Anthozoa of Phylum Cnidaria. Several authors of earlier era included these animals under the Actinaria as they are having several resemblances with the order. Corallimorphs are also commonly known as sea-anemones. The faunal group also have resemblance with the nematocysts structures with scleractinian corals and found world-wide from tropical to temperate region.

**Global diversity:** The order comprises of only 49 valid species world-wide belonging to the four families and 12 genera.

**Diversity in India:** Only four species of order Corallimorpharia has been reported from the Indian waters belonging to two families and four genera.

**Diversity in States:** Presented in table 1.

**Table 1:** Corallimorpharia of India, State-wise distribution

Sl. No.	State/ Union Territory	No. of Species
1.	Gujarat	01
2.	Tamil Nadu	01
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	03

**Endemism:** No endemism has been recorded from India.

**Habitat:** Corallimorphs are benthic marine faunal communities found from intertidal to deep sea.

**Ecological Significance:** Corallimorphs are responsible for phase-shifting in the reef area having adverse effect on corals. It is also reported that corallimorphs formed carpet by overgrowing on the reef.

**Human Significance:** Corallimorpharia are not having any direct human significance, however, they are found in marine aquarium to increase aesthetic view.

**Threatened species:** No species of Corallimorpharia from India is assessed for IUCN threatened categories.

**Protected Species as per WPA:** All the four species are protected under Schedule-I of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022.

**Species under CITES:** There is no species enlisted under the CITES Appendices.

**Invasive alien species:** No Corallimorpharia species is reported from India as an invasive alien species.

**Gap areas:** Works on Indian corallimorphs are very scanty and the group itself is representing very few species. The faunal group is lesser studied and very few experts are available. Mostly the faunal group was studied along with Actinaria. Comprehensive studies are required to explore the faunal group from the coasts of India.

**Systematic list:** Species list is cited below (Table 2).

**Table 2:** Corallimorpharia of India

Sl. No.	Species
1.	<i>Rhodactis rhodostoma</i> (Hemprich & Ehrenberg in Ehrenberg, 1834)
2.	<i>Amplexidiscus fenestrafer</i> Dunn & Hamner, 1980
3.	<i>Discosoma carlgreni</i> (Watzl, 1922)
4.	<i>Corynactis viridis</i> Allman, 1846

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