

***Leptoseris gardineri* (Agariciidae) and *Merulina ampliata* (Merulinidae): two
species of hermatypic corals, new records for Sri Lanka.**

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Abstract

Two species of hermatypic corals; *Leptoseris gardineri* Horst, 1921 and *Merulina ampliata* (Ellis and Solander, 1786) are recorded for the first time in Sri Lanka from western and eastern coral reefs respectively.

Leptoseris gardineri was found on an offshore reef habitat at a depth of 19 meters off the coast of Kandakuliya. A large patch consisting mainly of *Leptoseris gardineri* occur together with species of Fungiidae and sponges. *Merulina ampliata* was found on shallow coral reef habitats from the northern side of Pigeon Island in Nilaveli, Passikuda, Punnakuda, Kathankudi and Kalmunai. Specimens of both species were collected and are deposited in the coral reference collection at the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency. Both species are widely distributed in the Indo-pacific Region.

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