

*Contribution to the Special Issue: Marine Animal Forest of the World (MAF WORLD)***Advancing knowledge on red coral *Corallium rubrum* (Linnaeus, 1758) populations and associated mesophotic communities in the Aegean Sea, Eastern Mediterranean****Maria SALOMIDI, Alfredo MARCHIÒ, Yiannis ISSARIS, Vasilis GERAARIS, Thanos DAILIANIS
and Vasilis GEROVASILEIOU***Mediterranean Marine Science, 26, 2 (special issue) 2025***Table S1.** Number of taxa detected using both deep-diving and ROV surveys.

Taxonomic Groups	Site A	Site B	Total
Macroalgae	5	5	7
Porifera	20	25	28
Cnidaria	9	11	13
Annelida	5	8	8
Mollusca	2	4	5
Crustacea	2	3	4
Bryozoa	3	1	4
Echinodermata	8	9	13
Chordata - Tunicata	6	5	6
Chordata - Teleostei	9	7	13
Grand total	69	78	101

Table S2. Taxa recorded at study sites with deep SCUBA diving and ROV surveys. Their protection and conservation status (IUCN Red List) are also provided. Bern: Bern Convention, Barc: Barcelona Convention, CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, HD: Habitats Directive, II: Annex/Appendix II, III: Annex/Appendix III, V: Annex/Appendix V, EN: Endangered, VU: Vulnerable, NT: Near Threatened, LC: Least Concern, DD: Data Deficient.

Taxa	Site A	Site B	SCUBA Diving	ROV	Protection status	Conservation status
Macroalgae						
<i>Codium bursa</i> (Olivi) C.Agardh, 1817	+			+		
Corallinaceae		+	+			
Filamentous unidentified algae	+		+			
<i>Flabellia petiolata</i> (Turra) Nizamuddin, 1987		+		+		
<i>Lithophyllum</i> spp.	+	+	+	+		
<i>Peyssonnelia</i> sp.	+	+	+	+		
Turf	+	+	+	+		
Porifera						
<i>Acanthella acuta</i> Schmidt, 1862		+	+			
<i>Agelas oroides</i> (Schmidt, 1864)	+	+	+	+		
<i>Aplysilla sulfurea</i> Schulze, 1878	+	+	+	+		
<i>Aplysina</i> sp.	+	+	+	+	Barc (II)	
<i>Axinella cannabina</i> (Esper, 1794)		+	+		Barc (II)	
<i>Axinella damicornis</i> (Esper, 1794)	+	+	+	+		
<i>Axinella polypoides</i> Schmidt, 1862	+	+	+		Bern (II), Barc (II)	
<i>Axinella verrucosa</i> (Esper, 1794)	+	+	+	+		
<i>Chondrosia reniformis</i> Nardo, 1847	+	+	+	+		
<i>Diplastrella bistellata</i> (Schmidt, 1862)		+		+		
<i>Dysidea avara</i> (Schmidt, 1862)		+	+	+		
<i>Fasciospongia cavernosa</i> (Schmidt, 1862)		+	+			
<i>Haliclona fulva</i> (Topsent, 1893)	+	+	+	+		
<i>Haliclona mucosa</i> (Griessinger, 1971)		+	+	+		
<i>Haliclona</i> cf. <i>poecillastroides</i> (Vacelet, 1969)	+	+	+	+		
<i>Haliclona</i> sp.	+		+	+		
<i>Hexadella pruvoti</i> Topsent, 1896	+			+		
<i>Hexadella racovitzai</i> Topsent, 1896	+	+	+	+		
<i>Ircinia variabilis</i> (Schmidt, 1862)		+		+		
<i>Merlia</i> sp.		+	+	+		
<i>Penares</i> sp.	+	+	+	+		
<i>Petrosia ficiformis</i> (Poiret, 1789)	+	+	+	+		
<i>Phorbas tenacior</i> (Topsent, 1925)	+	+		+		
<i>Pleraplysilla spinifera</i> (Schulze, 1879)	+	+	+	+		
<i>Spirastrella cunctatrix</i> Schmidt, 1868	+	+	+	+		
<i>Sycon</i> sp.	+			+		
<i>Terpios gelatinosus</i> (Bowerbank, 1866)	+	+	+	+		
<i>Thymosiopsis cuticulatus</i> Vacelet & Pérez, 1998	+	+	+	+		
Cnidaria						
<i>Alcyonium acaule</i> Marion, 1878		+		+		DD
<i>Alcyonium palmatum</i> Pallas, 1766		+		+		LC
<i>Caryophyllia</i> (<i>Caryophyllia</i>) <i>inornata</i> (Duncan, 1878)	+	+	+	+	CITES (II)	LC
<i>Cerianthus</i> sp.	+	+		+		

Continued

Table S2 continued

Taxa	Site A	Site B	SCUBA Diving	ROV	Protection status	Conservation status
<i>Corallium rubrum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	+	+	+	+	Bern (III), Barc (III), HD (V)	EN
<i>Eunicella cavolini</i> (Koch, 1887)	+	+		+		NT
<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i> (Pallas, 1766)		+		+		NT
Hydrozoa spp.	+	+	+	+		
<i>Leptopsammia pruvoti</i> Lacaze-Duthiers, 1897	+	+	+	+	CITES (II)	LC
<i>Paramuricea clavata</i> (Risso, 1827)	+		+	+		VU
<i>Parazoanthus axinellae</i> (Schmidt, 1862)	+	+	+	+		LC
<i>Phyllangia americana mouchezii</i> (Lacaze-Duthiers, 1897)	+			+	CITES (II)	DD
<i>Polycyathus muelleriae</i> (Abel, 1959)		+	+	+	CITES (II)	LC
Annelida						
<i>Bispira</i> cf. <i>viola</i> (Grube, 1863)		+		+		
<i>Bispira volutacornis</i> (Montagu, 1804)		+	+			
<i>Bonellia viridis</i> Rolando, 1822	+	+	+	+		
<i>Branchiomma</i> sp.		+		+		
<i>Filograna/Salmacina</i> spp.	+	+	+	+		
<i>Protula</i> / <i>Apomatus</i> spp.	+	+	+	+		
<i>Sabella spallanzanii</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	+	+	+			
Serpulidae	+	+	+	+		
Mollusca						
<i>Nemesignis banyulensis</i> Portmann & Sandmeier, 1960		+	+			
<i>Felimare picta</i> (R. A. Philippi, 1836)		+		+		
<i>Antiopella cristata</i> (Delle Chiaje, 1841)		+		+		
<i>Neopycnodonte cochlear</i> (Poli, 1795)	+	+	+	+		
<i>Pteria hirundo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	+		+	+		
Crustacea						
<i>Dromia personata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	+			+		
<i>Munida rugosa</i> (Fabricius, 1775)		+	+			
<i>Palinurus elephas</i> (Fabricius, 1787)	+	+	+	+	Bern (III), Barc (III)	VU
<i>Scyllarides latus</i> (Latreille, 1803)		+	+		Bern (III), Barc (III), HD (V)	DD
Bryozoa						
<i>Adeonella</i> sp.	+		+			
<i>Epistoma</i> cf. <i>bursaria</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	+			+		
<i>Reteporella</i> sp.	+		+	+		
<i>Schizomavella</i> sp.		+		+		
Echinodermata						
<i>Antedon mediterranea</i> (Lamarck, 1816)		+		+		
<i>Chaetaster longipes</i> (Bruzellius, 1805)		+	+	+		
<i>Echinaster sepositus</i> (Retzius, 1783)	+	+		+		
<i>Echinus melo</i> Lamarck, 1816		+	+			
<i>Hacelia attenuata</i> Gray, 1840	+	+	+	+		
<i>Holothuria forskali</i> Delle Chiaje, 1824	+	+	+	+		LC
<i>Holothuria</i> spp.	+	+	+	+		

Continued

Table S2 continued

Taxa	Site A	Site B	SCUBA Diving	ROV	Protection status	Conservation status
<i>Holothuria tubulosa</i> Gmelin, 1791	+			+		LC
<i>Marthasterias glacialis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)		+		+		
<i>Ophidiaster ophidianus</i> (Lamarck, 1816)	+		+		Bern (II), Barc (II)	
Ophiuridae		+	+			
<i>Peltaster placenta</i> (Müller & Troschel, 1842)	+		+	+		
<i>Stylocidaris affinis</i> (Philippi, 1845)	+			+		
Chordata - Tunicata						
<i>Aplidium</i> sp.	+	+		+		
<i>Ciona intestinalis</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)	+			+		
Didemnidae	+	+	+	+		
<i>Diplosoma spongiforme</i> (Giard, 1872)	+	+	+	+		
<i>Halocynthia papillosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)	+	+	+	+		
<i>Microcosmus</i> sp.	+	+	+	+		
Chordata - Teleostei						
<i>Anthias anthias</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	+	+	+	+		LC
<i>Chromis chromis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	+	+	+	+		LC
<i>Gobius auratus</i> Risso, 1810		+	+			LC
<i>Gobius vittatus</i> Vinciguerra, 1883	+			+		LC
<i>Lappanella fasciata</i> (Cocco, 1833)	+		+			LC
<i>Phycis</i> sp.		+		+		
<i>Sciaena umbra</i> Linnaeus, 1758	+			+	Bern (III), Barc (III)	VU
<i>Scorpaena notata</i> Rafinesque, 1810		+		+		LC
<i>Scorpaena scrofa</i> Linnaeus, 1758	+			+		LC
<i>Serranus cabrilla</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	+	+	+	+		LC
<i>Serranus hepatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	+			+		LC
<i>Thorogobius ephippiatus</i> (Lowe, 1839)		+		+		LC
<i>Tripterygion</i> sp.	+			+		
Grand total	69	78	66	84	12	

Table S3. Checklist of taxa detected through diver-based high-resolution video footage at Site A.

Anthozoa	<i>Caryophyllia (Caryophyllia) inornata</i>	Algae	Filamentous unid. spp.
	<i>Corallium rubrum</i>		<i>Lithophyllum</i> spp.
	<i>Leptopsammia pruvoti</i>		<i>Peyssonnelia</i> sp.
	<i>Paramuricea clavata</i>	Mollusca	<i>Neopycnodonte cochlear</i>
	<i>Parazoanthus axinellae</i>		<i>Pteria hirundo</i>
Hydrozoa	Hydrozoa spp.	Chordata -Tunicata	<i>Diplosoma spongiforme</i>
Porifera	<i>Agelas oroides</i>		<i>Halocynthia papillosa</i>
	<i>Aplysilla sulfurea</i>	Echinodermata	<i>Holothuria</i> spp.
	<i>Aplysina</i> sp.		<i>Ophidiaster ophidianus</i>
	<i>Axinella damicornis</i>		<i>Peltaster placenta</i>
	<i>Axinella polypoides</i>	Annelida	<i>Filograna/Salmacina</i> spp.
	<i>Axinella verrucosa</i>		<i>Protula</i> sp.
	<i>Haliclona mucosa/poecillastroides</i>		<i>Sabella spallanzanii</i>
	<i>Haliclona</i> sp.		Serpulidae
	<i>Penares</i> sp.	Bryozoa	<i>Adeonella</i> sp.
	<i>Preraplysilla spinifera</i>		<i>Reteporella</i> sp.
	<i>Spirastrella cunctatrix</i>	Chordata -Teleostei	<i>Anthias anthias</i>
	<i>Terpios gelatinosus</i>		<i>Lappanella fasciata</i>
Crustacea	<i>Palinurus elephas</i>		<i>Serranus cabrilla</i>

Table S4. Checklist of taxa detected through ROV footage at Site A.

Anthozoa	<i>Caryophyllia (Caryophyllia) inornata</i>	Algae	<i>Codium bursa</i>
	<i>Cerianthus</i> sp.		<i>Lithophyllum</i> spp.
	<i>Corallium rubrum</i>		<i>Peyssonnelia</i> sp.
	<i>Eunicella cavolini</i>		Turf
	<i>Leptopsammia pruvoti</i>	Mollusca	<i>Neopycnodonte cochlear</i>
	<i>Paramuricea clavata</i>		<i>Pteria hirundo</i>
	<i>Parazoanthus axinellae</i>		<i>Aplidium</i> sp.
	<i>Phyllangia americana mouchezii</i>	Chordata -Tunicata	<i>Ciona intestinalis</i>
			Didemnidae
			<i>Halocynthia papillosa</i>
Hydrozoa	Hydrozoa spp.		<i>Microcosmus</i> sp.
Porifera	<i>Agelas oroides</i>	Echinodermata	<i>Echinaster sepositus</i>
	<i>Aplysilla sulfurea</i>		<i>Hacelia attenuata</i>
	<i>Aplysina</i> sp.		<i>Holothuria forskali</i>
	<i>Axinella damicornis</i>		<i>Holothuria</i> spp.
	<i>Axinella polypoides</i>		<i>Holothuria tubulosa</i>
	<i>Axinella verrucosa</i>		<i>Peltaster placenta</i>
	<i>Chondrosia reniformis</i>		<i>Stylocidaris affinis</i>
	<i>Haliclona fulva</i>	Annelida	<i>Bonellia viridis</i>
	<i>Haliclona mucosa/poecillastroides</i>		<i>Filograna/Salmacina</i> spp.
	<i>Haliclona</i> sp.		<i>Protula/Apomatus</i> spp.
			Serpulidae
	<i>Hexadella pruvoti</i>	Bryozoa	<i>Epistoma</i> cf. <i>bursaria</i>
	<i>Hexadella racovitzai</i>		<i>Reteporella</i> sp.
	<i>Penares</i> sp.	Crustacea	<i>Dromia personata</i>
	<i>Petrosia ficiformis</i>		<i>Palinurus elephas</i>
			<i>Anthias anthias</i>
	<i>Phorbas tenacior</i>	Chordata -Teleostei	<i>Chromis chromis</i>
	<i>Pleraplysilla spinifera</i>		<i>Gobius vittatus</i>
	<i>Spirastrella cunctatrix</i>		<i>Sciaena umbra</i>
			<i>Scorpaena scrofa</i>
	<i>Sycon</i> sp.		<i>Serranus cabrilla</i>
	<i>Terpios gelatinosus</i>		<i>Serranus hepatus</i>
	<i>Thymosiopsis cuticulatus</i>		<i>Tripterygion</i> sp.

Table S5. Checklist of taxa detected through diver-based high-resolution video footage at Site B.

Anthozoa	<i>Corallium rubrum</i>	Algae	Corallinaceae
	<i>Leptopsammia pruvoti</i>		<i>Peyssonnelia</i> sp.
	<i>Parazoanthus axinellae</i>		Turf
	<i>Polycyathus muelleriae</i>		
Hydrozoa	Hydrozoa spp.	Mollusca	<i>Nemesignis banyulensis</i>
			<i>Neopycnodonte cochlear</i>
Porifera	<i>Acanthella acuta</i>	Chordata -Tunicata	Didemnidae
	<i>Agelas oroides</i>		<i>Halocynthia papillosa</i>
	<i>Aplysina</i> sp.		<i>Microcosmus</i> sp.
	<i>Axinella cannabina</i>	Echinodermata	<i>Chaetaster longipes</i>
	<i>Axinella damicornis</i>		<i>Echinus melo</i>
	<i>Axinella polypoides</i>		<i>Hacelia attenuata</i>
	<i>Axinella verrucosa</i>		<i>Holothuria forskali</i>
	<i>Chondrosia reniformis</i>		<i>Holothuria</i> spp.
	<i>Dysidea avara</i>		Ophiuridae
	<i>Fasciospongia cavernosa</i>		<i>Bispira volutacornis</i>
	<i>Haliclona fulva</i>		<i>Filograna/Salmacina</i> spp.
	<i>Haliclona mucosa/</i>	Annelida	<i>Protula/Apomatus</i> spp.
	<i>poecillastroides</i>		<i>Sabella spallanzani</i>
	<i>Hexadella racovitzai</i>		<i>Bonelia viridis</i>
	<i>Merlia</i> sp.		Serpulidae
	<i>Penares</i> sp.	Crustacea	<i>Munida rugosa</i>
	<i>Petrosia ficiformis</i>		<i>Scyllarides latus</i>
	<i>Pleraplysilla spinifera</i>	Chordata -Teleostei	<i>Anthias anthias</i>
	<i>Spirastrella cunctatrix</i>		<i>Chromis chromis</i>
	<i>Terpios gelatinosus</i>		<i>Gobius auratus</i>
	<i>Thymosiopsis cuticulatus</i>		<i>Serranus cabrilla</i>

Table S6. Checklist of taxa detected through ROV survey footage at Site B.

Anthozoa	<i>Alcyonium palmatum</i>	Hydrozoa	Hydrozoa spp.
	<i>Alcyonium acaule</i>		
	<i>Caryophyllia (Caryophyllia) inornata</i>	Algae	<i>Flabellia petiolata</i>
	<i>Cerianthus</i> sp.		<i>Lithophyllum</i> spp.
	<i>Corallium rubrum</i>		<i>Peyssonnelia</i> sp.
	<i>Eunicella cavolini</i>		Turf
	<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>		
	<i>Leptopsammia pruvoti</i>	Mollusca	<i>Felimare picta</i>
	<i>Parazoanthus axinellae</i>		<i>Antiopella cristata</i>
	<i>Polycyathus muelleriae</i>		<i>Neopycnodonte cochlear</i>
Porifera	<i>Agelas oroides</i>	Chordata -Tunicata	<i>Aplidium</i> sp.
	<i>Aplysilla sulfurea</i>		<i>Diplosoma spongiforme</i>
	<i>Aplysina</i> sp.		<i>Halocynthia papillosa</i>
	<i>Axinella damicornis</i>		<i>Microcosmus</i> sp.
	<i>Axinella verrucosa</i>	Echinodermata	<i>Antedon mediterranea</i>
			<i>Chaetaster longipes</i>
	<i>Diplastrella bistellata</i>		<i>Echinaster sepositus</i>
			<i>Hacelia attenuata</i>
	<i>Dysidea avara</i>		<i>Holothuria</i> sp.
	<i>Haliclona fulva</i>		<i>Marthasterias glacialis</i>
	<i>Haliclona mucosa/poecillastroides</i>	Annelida	<i>Branchiomma</i> sp.
			<i>Bispira</i> cf. <i>viola</i>
	<i>Hexadella racovitzae</i>		<i>Filograna/Salmacina</i> spp.
	<i>Ircinia variabilis</i>		<i>Protula/Apomatus</i> spp.
	<i>Merlia</i> sp.	Bryozoa	Serpulidae
	<i>Penares</i> sp.	Crustacea	<i>Schizomavella</i> sp.
			<i>Munida</i> sp.
	<i>Petrosia ficiformis</i>	Chordata -Teleostei	<i>Palinurus elephas</i>
	<i>Phorbastenia tenacior</i>		<i>Anthias anthias</i>
	<i>Pleraplysilla spinifera</i>		<i>Chromis chromis</i>
	<i>Spirastrella cunctatix</i>		<i>Gobius auratus</i>
			<i>Phycis</i> sp.
	<i>Terpios gelatinosus</i>		<i>Scorpaena notata</i>
			<i>Serranus cabrilla</i>