

Supplementary materials

Table S1. Chi-square contingency table for the aggregation of recruits on the settlement tiles and on the natural substrate.

Distribution	Tiles	Natural substrate	Tot.	%
Cluster	6	31	37	35.6
Random	46	21	67	64.4
Tot.	52	52	104	100
X square = 53.07	n=104	p<0.001		

Table S2. Recruit density of other octocorals extracted from literature.

Species	Reproduction	Recruit density (col dm ⁻²)	Location	References
<i>Muricea californica</i>	Internal brooder	0.0064-0.0018	California	Grigg 1977 [58]
<i>Muricea fruticosa</i>	Internal brooder	0.00334-0.0004	California	Grigg 1977 [58]
<i>Leptogorgia virgulata</i>	Broadcast spawner	0.018-0.0025	Gulf of Mexico	Gotelli 1988 [59]
<i>Pseudopterogorgia sp.</i>	Surface brooder	0.023-0.0023	Puerto Rico	Yoshioka 1996 [60]
<i>Efflatounaria sp.</i>	ND	0.0037	Great Barrier Reef (AU)	Karlson et al. 1996 [61]
<i>Plexaura kuna</i>	Broadcast spawner	0.0004-0.0002	Panama	Lasker et al. 1998 [62]
<i>Heliopora coerulea</i>	Surface brooder	3.7-3.5	RiuKiu Islands (JP)	Harii and Kayanne 2003 [63]
<i>Paramuricea clavata</i>	Surface brooder	0.025± 0.1.0 (pre mass-mortality)	Portofino Ligurian Sea (It)	Cerrano et al. 2005 [64]
<i>Paramuricea clavata</i>	Surface brooder	0.048 ± 2.9 (after mass-mortality)	Portofino Ligurian Sea (It)	Cerrano et al. 2005 [64]
<i>Paramuricea clavata</i>	Surface brooder	0.026 ± 0.005 (pre mass-mortality)	Spezia Ligurian Sea (It.)	Cupido et al. 2009 [7]
<i>Paramuricea clavata</i>	Surface brooder	0.041 ± 0.47 (8 years since mass- mortality)	Spezia Ligurian Sea (It.)	Cupido et al. 2012 [65]
<i>Paramuricea clavata</i>	Surface brooder	0.037±1.7 (12 years since mass- mortality)	Spezia Ligurian Sea (It.)	Ruffaldi et al. 2021 [9]
<i>Antillogorgia americana</i>	Broadcast spawner	0.0004	Bahamas	Lasker and Porto-Hannes 2021 [66]
<i>Antillogorgia acerosa</i>	Broadcast spawner	0.0002	Bahamas	Lasker and Porto-Hannes 2021 [66]
<i>Antillogorgia bipinnata</i>	Surface brooder	0.0216	Bahamas	Lasker and Porto-Hannes 2021 [66]
<i>Antillogorgia elisabethae</i>	Surface brooder	0.0273	Bahamas	Lasker and Porto-Hannes 2021 [66]
<i>Antillogorgia istrix</i>	Internal brooder	0.0304	Bahamas	Lasker and Porto-Hannes 2021 [66]
<i>Antillogorgia rigida</i>	ND	0.0001	Bahamas	Lasker and Porto-Hannes 2021 [66]