

5 June 2003

Review Points Addressed

Dear Dr. Perry

Below is a description of how the points raised by the reviews were addressed. I am using the same format from the 2nd review, but replacing the points made/questions with how the issues were tackled.

Methods

- P2: 1. Line 19 describes that all coral fragments were derived from 2 colonies.
- P3: 1. Line 2 describes that fragments were assigned blindly to each treatment.
Note- the rationale for this experimental design is given in Line's 20 & 21.
2. Line 14 describes that 10 (5 exp/5 control) corals and 8 water controls were incubated leading to 18 total chambers per exposure.
3. Line 6 tells how salinities were achieved. Line 9 discusses how salinity was controlled and addresses the reviewers point.
- P4 4. (**Note—listed as P3, pt 4 in original review but addressed on P4**). Line 2 tells how experimental and control corals were placed under identical conditions in flow-through aerated tanks during recovery. The rate of water renewal was the same for both controls and experimental corals as it is a continuous, flow-through mesocosm system.
5. One factor ANOVA as reported in the results and Figure 1.

Results

DF, F and p values for the one factor ANOVA are given in Figure 1.
P-values (T-test) between experimental and control groups are given in Table 1.

P4—Here I am in agreement w/ the reviewer that the 'acclimation response' originally reported was too much of a leap and not justified by the raw data. Rather, the reported relative photosynthetic (% of controls) responses observed are addressed in a more realistic way in the 3rd paragraph of Page 4 and the 1st paragraph on Page 5. Here the photosynthesis trends are described more realistically **w/out** claiming that there is an acclimation response from 2 to 24 hr. Instead, short-term recovery responses are focused upon.

Photosynthetic recovery—This data is presented in Figure 2 and discussed in the last paragraph on Page 5, which carries over to Page 6.

P5—Here I am in agreement w/ the reviewer because polyp retraction and extension were not observed quantitatively. We note that the polyps retracted and mucus was produced after sudden exposure (Page 3, Lines 10-12) and that a decrease in light attenuation by the zooxanthellae likely occurred b/c of this (2nd paragraph, Page 5).

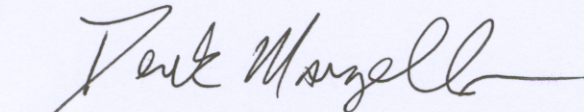
In sum, the major revisions necessary for publication (i.e., clearer explanation of statistics and methodology) are addressed above.

The published literature regarding the effects of salinity stress on hermatypic corals is very limited and after an extensive search we have included what we believe to be all pertinent references.

In regards to the missing abstract, we did not include one because we were following the paradigm of many notes published in *Coral Reefs*, which do not include an abstract. However, we did note that some notes do contain abstracts and if you believe one is necessary it can be provided in a timely manner. Also, if this manuscript seems too long for the “note” format, the paper can be rearranged separating results and discussion and including an abstract.

Once again, thank you very much for your patience and understanding. I look forward to the finished product!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Manzello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Derek Manzello