



Acanthaster Planci: Major Management Problem of Coral Reefs

Charles Birkeland, John Lucas

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The purpose of this book is to provide an organized compilation of information and techniques for all aspects of the biology and management of the *Acanthaster planci* species. This extraordinary coral predator has greater effects on coral reef communities than any other animal species. It can cause mortality of hard corals over large areas and have indirect effects that extend through the trophic levels of the reef community. This volume features *A. planci* as an animal with a unique combination of morphological, physiological, and life history characteristics that contribute to its potential for major ecological impacts. It provides detailed techniques for disparate aspects of research and management (e.g., raising the animal through all life history stages, calculating growth curves, and treating victims of spinings). Chapters cover methods for surveys, tagging, and control of *A. planci*, in addition to an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of each method. The extensive subject index includes more than 1,000 references to *A. planci* and a BASIC program for estimating coral recovery after predation by the starfish. *Acanthaster planci: Major Management Problem of Coral Reefs* is an essential reference for all coral reef managers and researchers.

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