

The Cold Water Coral Project Australia

Unearthing the Wonder of New South Wales Unexplored Coral Diversity

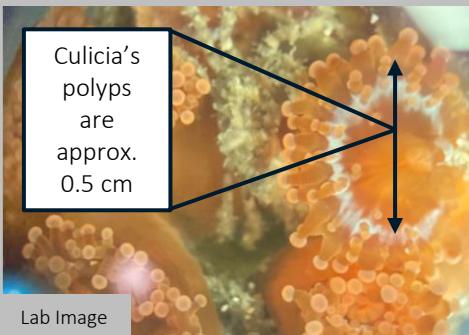
Did you know that corals are not restricted to tropical marine environments?

In fact, we find a large diversity of coral species along the New South Wales coastline! These corals are however poorly understood.

Our research aims to better understand NSW coral diversity. To do this we are starting out by mapping observations and records locally of corals of the genus *Culicia*, also known as cup corals.

Have you seen *Culicia*? We need your help!

Culicia has orange colouration (that may vary between colonies), small polyps (approximately 0.5cm) and is an encrusting coral that is commonly found on hard or rocky substrates. It is generally cryptic, hiding in shaded spots, such as under rocky overhangs. Colony sizes vary.



Lab Image



Skeletal Image



Underwater Image

Citizen science is an important and invaluable component of biodiversity research. That's why we are asking you, local diving communities, general water enthusiasts, if you have seen *Culicia* in your local area?

This information will allow us to gain a better understanding of *Culicia*'s, and the cup corals, biogeographical distribution. **If you have seen *Culicia* and are interested in contributing to our project, please fill out the citizen science form with your observations and upload any related images at the QR code below!**



My name is Sophie Vuleta, I am a PhD candidate at the University of New South Wales. If you would like more information on the Cold Water Coral Project please contact me at: s.vuleta@unsw.edu.au

Or check out our website below:
coldwatercoralprojectaus.com



CULICIA CITIZEN SCIENCE

A short story for kids

Cullie, The Cold Water Coral

Cullie is a coral but not one you would know.
She lives where the ocean is cold and the big reefs
don't grow.

She doesn't use the sun, like her friends in the
north,
She just needs clear waters, and a little bit of
warmth 

Cullie is a coral who lives closer than most,
she wants you to know she's an incredible host.
Tucked in with Cullie, baby fish, little shrimp,
even a few worms, all settle beneath her grip.

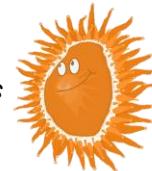
Cullie is the coral that you might have seen
below the surface she is orange with flecks of
green
when the ocean is quiet, she catches her prey,
slowly in time growing bigger each day.

Cullie is a coral, now one that you know,
all that she needs is some space to be able to grow.
slowly cleaning up the ocean, she is able to stay
tucked under the rocks and ready to play.

Written by Associate Professor Tracy Ainsworth

Illustrated by Sophie Vuleta

You can find us at The University of New South Wales



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