

In press:

Extensive information on mesophotic coral ecosystems in the largest Caribbean archipelago

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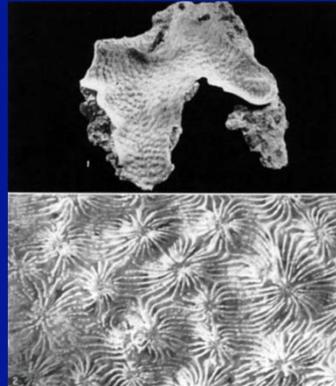
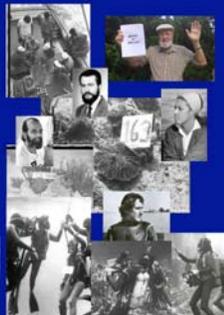
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The Harte Research Institute (HRI) for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is publishing *Los escleractinios de Cuba* in Spanish with a Legacy Book Introduction, Editorial Preface and Author's Note in English.

Vassil N. Zlatarski
Nereida Martínez Estalella

Los escleractinios de Cuba



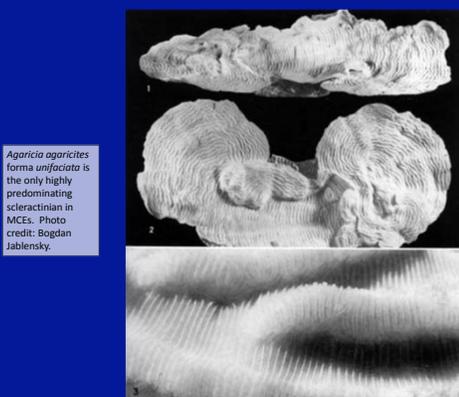
Legacy Book (excerpt)

"The *Scleractinians of Cuba* book is the summation and synthesis of knowledge gained from perhaps the most detailed study of stony corals ever undertaken in the Caribbean Sea. This massive project, led by Vassil Zlatarski of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences during 1970-73, was in cooperation and collaboration with scientists from the Institute of Oceanology in Havana, Cuba. After years of painstaking and detailed analyses by the scientists, and 1000s of photographs by Bogdan Jablensky, the first edition of the book was published in Russian in 1980. In 1982, a second edition was published in French. Due to small printing runs of these two earlier editions, and the lack of a Spanish or English version, the book and its contents are little known or available to modern coral reef scientists. Eventually, a Spanish version of the book was translated, but it was only recently made available as a PDF version on compact disk. Now, in 2017, HRI is making the Spanish version of the very important work available in print for Cuban and other Spanish speaking countries, and HRI will have an e-book of this same version available in open access for anyone to download from the HRI website by 2019.

...Considering the current state of decline of coral reefs in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, this landmark study and book should be of great importance and use to modern day coral reef scientists and their work towards conservation of these treasured ecosystems."

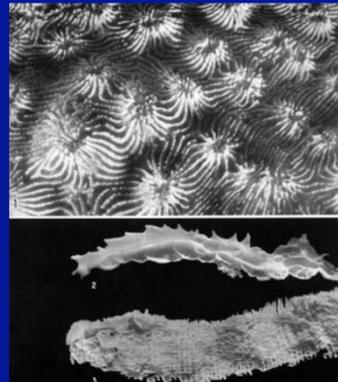
October 2017

John W. Tunnell, Jr.



Agaricia agaricites
forma unifiacata is
the only highly
predominating
scleractinian in
MCEs. Photo
credit: Bogdan
Jablensky.

Top and Right:
Mycetophyllia reesi?
is the only
scleractinian species
habitant solely in
MCEs. Photo credit:
Bogdan Jablensky



Editorial Preface (excerpt)

"The *Scleractinians of Cuba* brought my knowledge and interest in hard corals to a new unprecedented scale. My focus of attention was not only the coral itself, its morphological variability or ecology, but its microscopic structure, pathologies, fossil records, wide skeletal variability, geographic location and bathymetric distribution, its associated organisms and the many references on diverse fundamental studies that address the topic.

Texts, plates, figures, tables and the numerous scientific references, make this book a mandatory reading for both those who explore the subject and those who want to deepen their knowledge on the most bio diverse marine communities on the planet: "coral reefs". Hence the importance of preserving and disseminating books like this, which already constitute an important part of the history of natural science to humankind.

To this end we can add the topics of most of the themes covered in this material, the reason why it transcends the boundaries of time, as well as the collection of corals that were objects of study, currently preserved in the National Aquarium of Cuba. Several books on hard corals have been published recently, however, the abundance and scientific level of the information contained in *The Scleractinians of Cuba*, make this particular book an irreplaceable work, one in which we will inevitably have to dive into again and again."

September 2017

Sergio González Ferrer

The Harte Research Institute (HRI) for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi received a grant to print a limited number of hard copies of this Legacy Book, as well as an e-book. HRI will choose those selected Spanish-speaking coral reef scientists who will most likely benefit from the book in their studies of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Everyone else is welcome to a free copy of the e-book of this Spanish Edition Legacy Book at www.harteresearchinstitute.org.

The Richard Lounsbery Foundation funded printing of the Spanish version of the book. Much appreciation is extended to Gail Sutton of the Harte Research Institute for preparation of this poster.