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Corals and coral associated fish biodiversity in the Saint Martin's island of the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh

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The study of coral, coral fish biodiversity and water quality of the St. Martin's Island, Bangladesh was done in 2008. Corals sampling were conducted at different locations around the Island with SCUBA diving and snorkeling. Coral fish samples were collected through different gears (hook, long line, hand net, rock gill net, traps etc.) around five diving sites. For sample collection and preservation standard procedure were followed. A total 13 genus under 6 families of hard corals were identified. Among the corals *Porites* and *Favites* were mostly dominant. 5 species of soft coral under 2 Order were also found. *Galaxea fascicularis* species were identified under *Galaxea* genus and *Oculinidae* family. *Acanthastrea* sp. was identified under *Acanthastrea* genus and *Mussidae* family. *Coscinaraea monile*, *Coscinaraea columna* identified under *Coscinaraea* genus and *Siderastrea savigniana* under *Siderastrea* genus, all are belongs to *Siderastreidae* family. *Favites* and *Favia* genus identified under *Faviidae* family. *Platygyra daedalea* was identified under *Platygyra* genus and *Faviidae* family. *Leptastrea* genus was identified under *Faviidae* family. *Cyphastrea serallia*, *Cyphastrea microphthalma* was identified under *Cyphastrea* genus and *Faviidae* family. *Porites* and *Goniopora* genus was identified under *Poritidae* family. *Montipora hispida* was identified under *Montipora* genus and *Acroporidae* family. *Acropora* sp. was identified under *Acropora* genus *Acroporidae* family. Soft corals were identified under *Gorgonacea* and *Alcyonacea* order. A total of 49 coral associated fish species were collected and identified under 39 genera, 27 families and of 5 orders at 5 diving sites of the St. Martin's island. Higher diversity of fishes were found from 6 families which were *Chaetodontidae* (3 species), *Labridae* (3 species), *Serranidae* (4 species), *Lutjanidae* (5 species), *Gobiidae* and *Pomacentridae* (3 species).

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