

Corrigendum

Trans-Atlantic rafting by the brooding reef coral *Favia fragum* on man-made flotsam

Bert W. Hoeksema*, Piet J. Roos, Gerhard C. Cadée

Mar Ecol Prog Ser 445: 209–218, 2012

*Email: bert.hoeksema@naturalis.nl

This article reports on the trans-Atlantic rafting of a reef coral, which had washed ashore in an abraded state on a metal cylinder found on a Dutch beach. Dr. Esther C. Peters (George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA) and William F. Precht (Dial Cordy and Associates, Inc., Miami, FL, USA) have pointed out to the authors that this coral is not, as stated, *Favia fragum* (Esper, 1795), a strictly tropical species, but *Astrangia poculata* (Ellis & Solander, 1786), which is native to the temperate waters of the Atlantic coast of the southeastern USA. *A. poculata* corals are either zooxanthellate or azooxanthellate (Boschma 1925) and show a remarkable tolerance to a wide range of environmental distributions in a recorded depth range of 0 to 263 m (Peters et al. 1988). Since this species occurs in the western Atlantic, the corals

found had survived for a long period and rafted across the Atlantic. Therefore, the main conclusion of the paper concerning the long-distance dispersal of scleractinian corals by rafting on flotsam across the Atlantic is still supported. The authors regret that they overlooked the existence of this *Astrangia* species.

LITERATURE CITED

- Boschma H (1925) On the feeding reactions and digestion in the coral polyp *Astrangia danae*, with notes on its symbiosis with zoöxanthellae. Biol Bull 49: 407–439
- Peters EC, Cairns SD, Pilson MEQ, Wells JW and others (1988) Nomenclature and biology of *Astrangia poculata* (= *A. danae*, = *A. astreiformis*) (Cnidaria: Anthozoa). Proc Biol Soc Wash 101:234–250