

Egypt Red Sea - Gazella Reef (Wadi Lahami)

Marsa Alam area · surveyed 2024-09-22



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What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 214 photographs. 2 further methods were run on the same frames and are reported on the site page. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER

17%

manual point count (214 photos) · other methods on the site page

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

30.6°C 13.2°C-weeks

16 Sep 2026 · +3.0°C vs the annual mean (27.6 °C)
· NOAA Alert Level 2

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)

15.6°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks averaging 12–16 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

15.8 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

31.0°C

+3.6°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (27.4°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

4

on file for this site

POSITION

24.1877, 35.4386

Gazella Reef is a well-built ridge-and-slope system - corymbose and staghorn *Acropora*, cauliflower pocilloporids in pink and lavender, with a lionfish sheltering in the shadows - and carries the clearest side-by-side bleaching evidence in the Wadi Lahami set: two touching *Pocillopora* colonies of identical growth form, one bleached uniform cream-white and one holding full pink-lavender pigment. Published cover was 17% with 53.8% of coral tissue bleached, the lowest bleaching figure of the four Wadi Lahami sites here but still more than half the reef.

العربية. شعبة غزالة منظومة حيد ومنحدر جيدة البناء — *Acropora* عنقودي مسطح وقرني، ومرجانيات شوكية تشبه القرنبيط بلونين وردي وبنفسجي، مع سمكة أسد تحتمي في الظلال — وتحمل أوضح دليل مقارنة على الابيضاض في مجموعة وادي لحمي: مستعمرتان متلامستان من *Pocillopora* بالشكل النمائي نفسه، إحداهما مُبَيَّضَة بلون كريمي موحد والأخرى محتفظة بكامل صبغتها الوردية البنفسجية. ترجمة هذا الملخص بالذكاء الاصطناعي؛ النص الإنجليزي هو المعتمد.

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 16.5 · In-house DINOv3 40.6 · Claude 28.0

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 1 of 4 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/egypt-red-sea-gazella-reef-wadi-lahami.html> · Heat stress is the mean of the latest five annual maxima of NOAA Coral Reef Watch degree-heating weeks for this reef's NOAA CRW virtual station (Egypt) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.