



## Carijoa riisei

### Snowflake coral

#### Threat Scores

1. Ecological Impact
  - Fouling organism; competition for space with other invertebrates likely
  - In 2001, deep water surveys of the Maui Black Coral Bed discovered *C. riisei* overgrowing and killing over 60% of the black coral trees between 80 and 105 meters depth; it now threatens Hawaii's \$30 million precious coral industry
2. Invasive Potential
  - A fouling organism requiring assisted transport to expand alien range
  - When conditions are favorable it is capable of explosive growth, hence able to smother competitors and occupy any available space
  - Popular in aquarium trade - potential for releases into hospitable environments
  - *C. riisei* has been described as the most invasive of the 287 non-indigenous marine invertebrates in Hawai'i (Toonen, 2004)
3. Geographic Extent
  - Locally patchy
4. Management Difficulty
  - No known controls in marine environment
  - "A potential agent of *C. riisei* bio-control (introduced aeolid nudibranch soft coral predator) recently identified but must undergo further research before it can be considered as an actual management technique"



#### Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Western Atlantic from Florida to Brazil
2. Introduced: Hawai'i
3. Habitats
  - Fouling communities, benthic, coral reefs
  - Never in direct sunlight
  - Found outside harbors on shipwrecks or in sheltered and shaded crevices or shallow caves on deeper reefs

#### Invasion Pathways

1. Hull/Surface fouling
2. Pet, aquarium and water garden trade

#### Non-Native Locations

1. 152- Hawaiian Islands

#### Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer et al. 2008. Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. Vol. 6, No. 9, pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>