



Precious Coral, a discussion on sustainability

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Precious corals comprise a very limited number of species among the thousands of species of species that are collectively known as corals and, today, both fishing and trade regulation apply in order to better manage this historically and culturally as well as economically and socially relevant natural resource. Efforts have been reported in Japan to better understand the growth of these slow-growing colonial animals for the repopulation of the sea bed using a local precious coral species. It is often overlooked the fact that are precious corals that were collected as non-living materials, some having been carbon dated to thousands of years old, like it is the case of Scleractinia coral discovered in 1875 in colossal quantities. Addressing these issues raises awareness for the sustainability of precious corals for the protection of the biodiversity and the consumer towards high jewellery embellished with precious coral.



Photo: Mediterranean coral, *Corallium rubrum*, Sardinia, Italy. © Museo del Corallo, Collezione Liverino

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