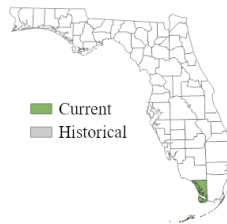


## PILLAR CORAL

*Dendrogyra cylindrus*



**Order:** Scleractinia  
**Family:** Meandrinidae  
**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S1  
**U.S. Status:** Threatened  
**FL Status:** Threatened

**Description:** Forms colonies of cylindrical pillars to approximately 3 ft. (1 m) tall and 2 - 5 in. (ca. 5 - 13 cm) in diameter. Color is a light olive with bluish polyps.

**Similar Species:** No other corals in Florida or the Caribbean region form pillars.

**Habitat:** At a depth of 6 - 60 ft. (2 - 20 m) in flat to gently sloping, rock or coral or occasionally sand substrate in warm, clear, nutrient-poor marine waters along Florida's continental shelf adjacent to the Keys.

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Year-round.

**Florida Distribution:** Shallow marine waters from Miami to Marquesas Keys; occurrences are extremely rare.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Throughout the central Caribbean Sea, Bahamas, and southern coast of Florida.

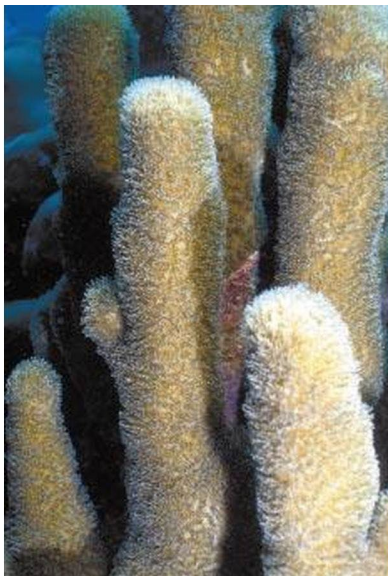
**Conservation Status:** Protected in John Pennekamp State Park and Biscayne National Park; collection is prohibited in all Florida waters.

**Protection and Management:** Improve water quality in Florida Bay.

**References:** Deyrup and Franz (eds.) 1994.

## Pillar Coral

*Dendrogyra cylindrus*



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