



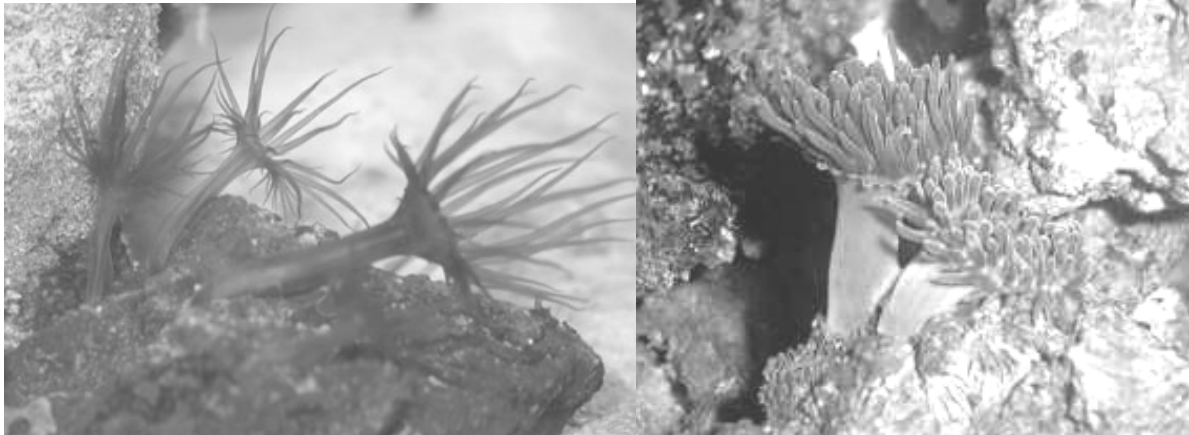
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AIPTASIA AND MAJANO ANEMONES

The aiptasia or Glass Anemone and the Majano Anemones pictured left and right respectively are easily able to form plague populations in a marine aquarium.



Both anemones have quite efficient stinging mechanisms, and can cause problems when they contact corals or fish. The above pictures are about 40 -50 % larger than the average anemones.

Aiptasia anemones are the more prolific of the two types and will reproduce very quickly if a poorly thought out control routine is undertaken. These anemones will recover and grow new animals from quite small amounts of residual tissue. Therefore trying to tear or scrape them off the rocks will usually just result in more of them appearing. The anemones retract very quickly as well, which just adds to the difficulty of controlling these little critters.

Control methods are varied with some of the things used being:

Use of boiling water to cook the flesh of the anemone in situ. This is only an option if the rock can be removed from the aquarium without major disruption. Boiling hot water is sprayed over the offending anemones using a syringe or turkey baster, while trying not to spray too much water over the rest of the rock's surface.

Use of hypodermic syringe & needle to inject toxic compounds (quite often copper or highly caustic solutions) into the tissue of the anemone.

Biological control: the Copperband butterfly and Ulietensis butterfly both are known to regularly eat these problem anemones. Ulietensis butterfly is not generally considered to be totally reef safe though. Peppermint shrimp, and some Nudibranchs are also known to feed on aiptasia, but these are not readily available.

Our Recommendation:

Use of a product called "Joe's Juice" delivered directly to the feeding disc of the anemones results in a very quick kill in 95% or better of cases.