

Western Australia Expedition - June 1997

Expedition Members: R.C. Brusca, W. Moore,
S. Riseman, J.K. Lowry.

Principal Collecting Localities (marine): Exmouth,
Northwest Cape, Coral Bay, Shark Bay.

1 sample taken (rubble & coralline algae washes)
This is not a particularly good dive site.

W.A. Exped. 97-2

18 June 1997

Exmouth, mouth of Exmouth Gulf, Bundegi Beach
reef, outside main reef. $21^{\circ}50'24''S$ $114^{\circ}10'15''E$

Rock bottom. 14m. Baited trap. Good collection
of cirripeds, using western pilchard as bait.

W.A. Exped. 97-3

18 June 1997

Exmouth, mouth of Exmouth Gulf, Bundegi Beach
reef, outside main reef. $21^{\circ}50'21''S$ $114^{\circ}10'14''E$

Sand & rock bottom. 6m. Baited trap. Good
collection of cirripeds, using western pilchard

W.A. Exped. 97.1

17 June 1997 (4 PM)

Exmouth, entry to Exmouth Gulf, Bundegi Beach, @ $\frac{1}{2}$ km. offshore, patch reef inside main Bundegi Reef. Depth 1-1.5 m. $21^{\circ}50'80''$ S $114^{\circ}10'20''$ E. Pocillopora & (or Porites?) Acropora, crinoids, cucumbers (*Holothuria atra*), etc.

1 sample taken (rubble & coralline algae washes). This is not a particularly good dive site.

W.A. Exped. 97-2

18 June 1997

Exmouth, mouth of Exmouth Gulf, Bundegi Beach reef, outside main reef. $21^{\circ}50'84''$ S $114^{\circ}10'45''$ E. Rock bottom. 14m. Baited trap. Good collection of cirrolanids, using western pilchards as bait.

W.A. Exped. 97-3

18 June 1997

Exmouth, mouth of Exmouth Gulf, Bundegi Beach reef, outside main reef. $21^{\circ}50'81''$ S $114^{\circ}10'34''$ E. Sand & rock bottom. 6m. Baited trap. Good collection of cirrolanids, using western pilchards as bait.

W.A. Exped. 97-4

18 June 1997

Exmouth, mouth of Exmouth Gulf, Bundegi Beach reef. $21^{\circ}51'6''$ S $114^{\circ}10'16''$ E. sand bottom. 2m. Good collection of cirrhenids, using western pilchards as bait.

W.A. Exped. 97-5

18 June 1997

West coast of Northwest Cape, Tantabiddi Beach. $21^{\circ}53'$ S $113^{\circ}58'$ E. Intertidal Rock Bench. Rocks and algae washed, esp. Sargassum. many amphipods.

W.A. Exped. 97-6

18 June 1997

West coast of Northwest Cape, off Tantabiddi Beach, $21^{\circ}53'$ S $113^{\circ}58'$ E. Scuba collection on patch reefs, 3-5m. coll: W. Moore. Mostly rock, little coral.

W.A. Exped. 97-7

18 June 1997

West coast of Northwest Cape, off Tantabiddi Beach. $21^{\circ}53'$ S $113^{\circ}58'$ E. scuba collection on patch reefs, 3-5m. coll. R.C. Brusca. Mostly rocks; little coral.

Overall, the Exmouth region is not very interesting for inverts. The water tends to lack clarity due to small-grain size sand & regular winds, and there is little coral development. The reefs we saw were rock-based, with coral heads (*Porites*, *Pocillopora*-types; some *Aeropora*), but no coral framework. Most areas are also quite shallow. However, we did not get out to the "offshore reef" (Ningaloo Reef) due to winds, and this would presumably have been better diving (it seems to be about 3 km offshore in the northern-most cape region).

W.A. Exped. 97-8 19 June 1997

West coast of Northwest Cape, 1 km off Tantabiddi Beach. $21^{\circ}53'26''S$ $113^{\circ}58'83''E$. Algae/rock bottom. 3m. Overnight baited trap collection. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-9 19 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, 1 km off Tantabiddi Beach. $21^{\circ}53'35''S$ $113^{\circ}58'86''E$. Sand bottom. 4m. Overnight baited trap collection. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-10 19 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, 1 km off Tantabiddi
Beach. $21^{\circ}53'56''S$ $113^{\circ}58'80''E$. Algae/rock bottom.
6 m. Overnight baited trap. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-11 19 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, 1 km off Tantabiddi
Beach. $21^{\circ}53'78''S$ $113^{\circ}58'52''E$. Algae/sand bottom.
5m. Overnight baited trap. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-12 19 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape. 1 km. of Tantabiddi
Beach. $21^{\circ}54'33''S$ $113^{\circ}58'48''E$. on rock reef.
2-3m. Overnight baited trap. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-13 19 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape. $\sim 22^{\circ}08'S$ $113^{\circ}52'E$.
Rocky intertidal collection. Lowry + Moore.

W.A. Exped. 97-14 19 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape. $\sim 22^{\circ}08'S$ $113^{\circ}52'E$,
shallow subtidal collection; washes of coral, rubble, &
algae (1-2m). Brusca + Riseman.

the best diving north of Yardie Creek seems to be at (1) oyster stacks, (2) Turquoise Beach, and (3) Jacobsz Access. At these three sites the brain reef comes close to shore & the lagoon is small, sandy, and with coral outcrops. At oyster stacks there seem to be a dozen kinds of coral & dozens of small reef fishes, as well as many cucumbers & some other echinoderms.

* W.A. Exped. 97-18 21 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, oyster stacks beach, @ $22^{\circ}08'S$ $113^{\circ}52'E$. Shallow subtidal collection on rock platform. 1-2m. Sargassum washes. Coll. J. Lowry. 1 sample bag.

* W.A. Exped. 97-16 21 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, ~ 2km S. Coral Bay (just outside sanctuary region). ~ $23^{\circ}09'S$ $113^{\circ}46'E$. Shallow subtidal collection on rock platform. 2m. washes of tufted brown algae. Coll. J. Lowry. 1 sample bag.

* W.A. Exped. 97-17 21 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, ~2km S. Coral Bay (just outside Sanctuary zone). ~23°09'S 113°46'E.

Shallow subtidal collection on rock platform. 1m.

Washes of tufted brown algae, branching red algae, and Sargassum. coll. J. Lowry. 1 sample bag.

* W.A. Exped. 97-18 21 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape. ~2km S. Coral Bay. (just outside sanctuary zone). ~23°09'S 113°46'E.

Washes of Sargassum from crack zone (=supra-littoral). Coll. R.C. Bruschi. 2 sample bags.

W.A. Exped. 97-19 21 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, ~2km S. Coral Bay (just outside Sanctuary zone). ~23°09'S 113°46'E.

Coral rubble washes. 2m. dirt. Coll. W. Moore & S. Riseman. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-70

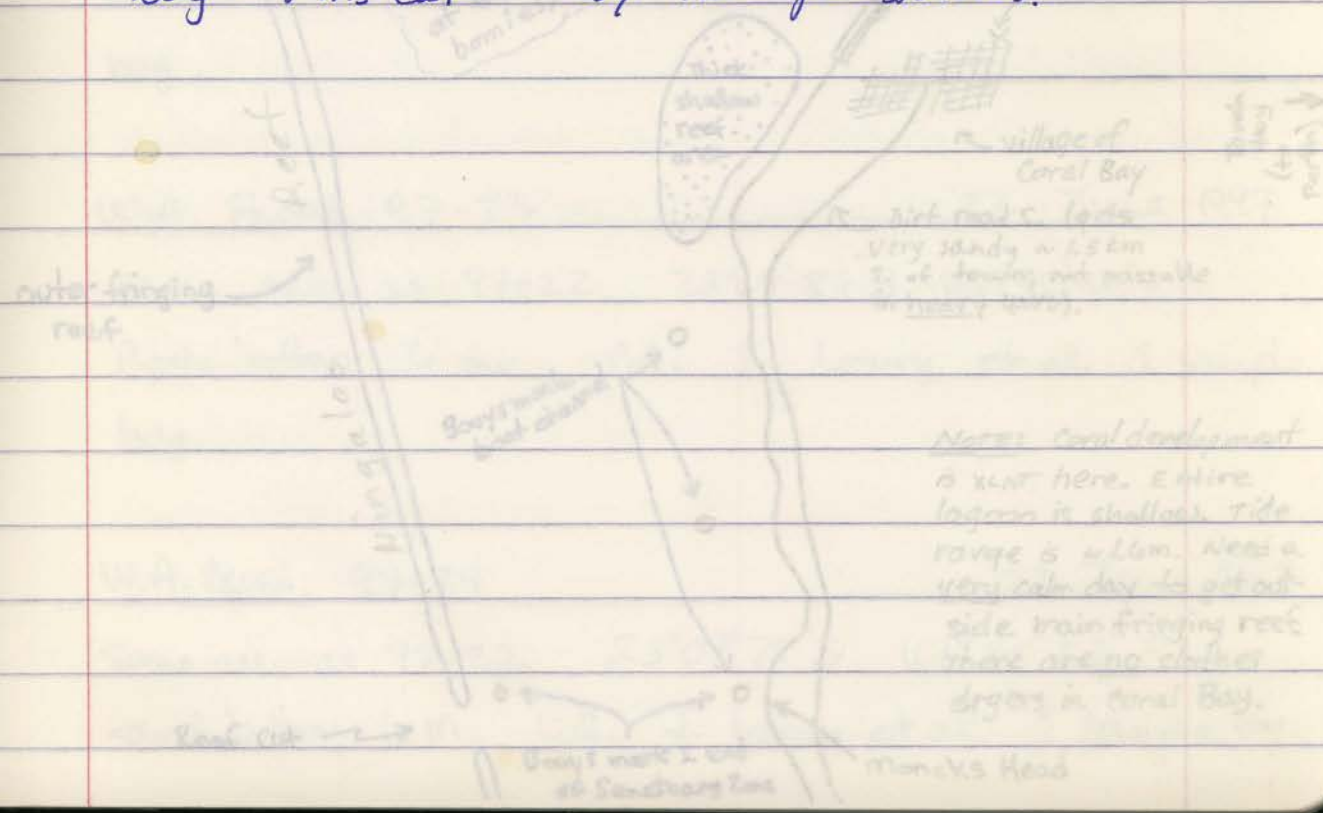
21 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, ~2 km S. Coral Bay (just outside sanctuary zone). ~23°09'S 113°45'E. Back reef area of main fringing reef, ~1.5 km offshore. 2-6 m. washes of coral rubble & algae. Coll. w. Moore, S. Riseman, R.C. Brusca. 2 sample bags. Temp = 17.5°C
(no thermometer noticed) Rose River Virus &

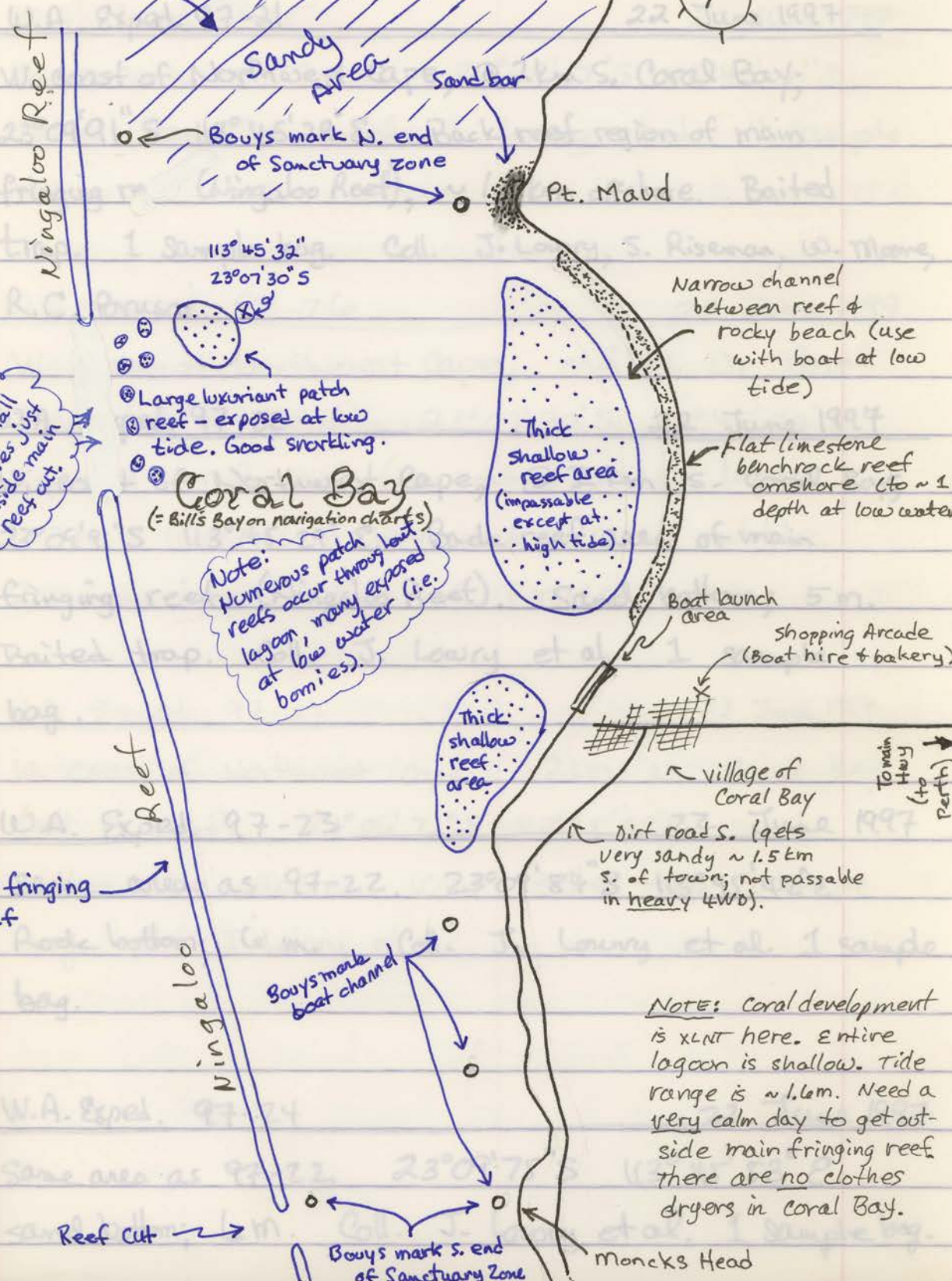
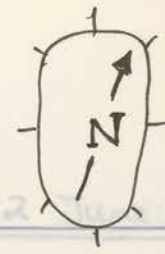
Note on Coral Bay area: The diving here is xlt. Just in front of the village itself is luxuriant coral development, accessible from shore with easy shore scuba entry. The CALM sanctuary zone runs from ~1 km so. of the village (1st large rocky pt), northwards for several kms. Diving so. of the sanctuary is best on the back reef reef, about 20 min. by skiff from the boat ramp in the village. There are few loose rocks on-shore, making shore collecting unproductive. The dirt road running south from the village (follow French St., in the Bayview "resort") gets nearly impassable ~2 km. south of town. The tides here are semidiurnal (mixed) with a range of ~1.4 m. The best

Notes:
Dungons & seagrass
beds are in this
area.

accommodations seem to be the Ningaloo Reef
Resort, next best the chalets at the Bayview
(\$140/night, 2 bdm). Dining is bad, but there are
2 markets & a good bakery. Only place to get
a cappuccino may be the bakery. ^(Fins Cafe) One dive
shop (owned by same people who own Exmouth
Dive Center). $H_2O T^\circ$ in mid-June = $75^\circ F$
(no thermocline noticed). Ross River Virus &
Barmah Forest Virus are both endemic here, as
throughout NW Oz = use deet-based mosquito
repellent. There is one good restaurant in Coral
Bay - "Fins Cafe" (by the gas station).



Note: Dugongs & seagrass beds are in this area.



Note: Many small bomies just inside main reef cut.

Large luxuriant patch reef - exposed at low tide. Good snorkeling.

Note: Numerous patch reefs occur through lagoon, many exposed at low water (i.e. bomies).

NOTE: coral development is XLNT here. Entire lagoon is shallow. Tide range is ~1.6m. Need a very calm day to get outside main fringing reef there are no clothes dryers in Coral Bay.

113° 45' 32"
23° 07' 30" S

Coral Bay
(= Bills Bay on navigation charts)

Pt. Maud

Narrow channel between reef & rocky beach (use with boat at low tide)

Flat limestone benchrock reef offshore (to ~1m. depth at low water)

Boat launch area

Shopping Arcade (Boat hire & bakery)

village of Coral Bay

Dirt road S. (gets very sandy ~1.5km S. of town; not passable in heavy 4WD).

To main Hwy (to Perth)

outer fringing reef

Buoys mark boat channel

Reef cut

Buoys mark S. end of Sanctuary Zone

Monck's Head

W.A. Exped. 97-21

22 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, @ 2 km S. Coral Bay;
23°09'91" S 113°45'29" E. Back reef region of main
fringing reef (Ningaloo Reef), ~ 1.5 km offshore. Baited
trap. 1 sample bag. Coll. J. Lowry, S. Riseman, W. Moore,
R.C. Brusca.

W.A. Exped. 97-22

22 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, @ 2 km S. Coral Bay;
23°09'91" S 113°45'29" E. Back reef area of main
fringing reef (Ningaloo Reef). Sand bottom; 5 m.
Baited trap. Coll. J. Lowry et al. 1 sample
bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-23

22 June 1997

Same area as 97-22. 23°09'84" S 113°45'42" E.
Rock bottom; 6 m. Coll. J. Lowry et al. 1 sample
bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-24

22 June 1997

Same area as 97-22. 23°09'75" S 113°45'53" E.
sand bottom; 6 m. Coll. J. Lowry et al. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped 97-25

22 June 1997

Same area as 97-22. $23^{\circ}09'51''S$ $113^{\circ}45'17''E$.

Sand bottom; 2m. Coll. J. Lowry et al. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-26

22 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, ~2km. N. Coral Bay (off Pt. Maud). $23^{\circ}07'30''S$ $113^{\circ}45'32''E$.

Exposed coral reef (low water) inside lagoon.

1-2m. Washes of live coral & coral rubble.

2 sample bags. Coll: R.C. Brusca.

W.A. Exped. 97-27

23 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, ~2km. N. Coral Bay (off Pt. Maud). $23^{\circ}06'72''S$ $113^{\circ}45'38''E$. sand

bottom ~1km offshore. 10m. Baited trap. 1 sample

bag. Coll: J. Lowry et al.

W.A. Exped. 97-28

23 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape, ~2km N. Coral Bay.
(off Pt. Maud). $23^{\circ}06'80''S$ $113^{\circ}45'44''E$. ~1km
offshore, on rock/sand bottom. 4m. Coll. J. Lowry et al.
1 sample bag. Baited trap sample.

W.A. Exped. 97-29

23 June 1997

same locality as above. Trap damaged on
reef - no sample.

W.A. Exped. 97-30

23 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape. ~2km N. Coral Bay.
(off Pt. Maud). $23^{\circ}06'99''S$ $113^{\circ}45'60''E$. Rock/sand
bottom, ~1km offshore. 4m. Baited trap sample.
Coll. J. Lowry et al. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-31

23 June 1997

W. coast of Northwest Cape. ~2km N. Coral
Bay (off Pt. Maud). $23^{\circ}07'30''S$ $113^{\circ}45'32''E$
~800m offshore. Baited trap. 1 sample bag. Coll:
J. Lowry.

W.A. Exped. 97-32

23 June 1997

W. Side of Northwest Cape, ~4km S. Coral Bay.

$23^{\circ}09'S$ $113^{\circ}45'E$. Large patch reef just inside main fringing reef (Ningaloo Reef); ~1.5km offshore. 2-6m.

Washes of coral rubble, live coral, and algae.

Coll: R.C. Brusca. 2 sample bags.

W.A. Exped. 97-33

26 June 1997

Shark Bay, off Denham, ~1 km. offshore.

$25^{\circ}56.37'S$ $113^{\circ}31.93'E$. Baited trap set in 2.5m. Sand bottom w/small seagrass patches. Coll: J. Lowry, et al.

xInt sample of cirrhanids & ostracods. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-34

26 June 1997

Shark Bay, off Denham, ~1km offshore.

$25^{\circ}56.37'S$ $113^{\circ}31.93'E$. Baited trap set in 3.5m, in

Large seagrass bed. Coll: J. Lowry et al. xInt

sample of cirrhanids & ostracods. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-35

26 June 1997

Shark Bay, off Denham, ~800m offshore.

25°56.23'S 113°32'E. Baited trap set in 1.5m,
on sand at edge of large seagrass bed.

Coll: J. Lowry et al. Exlnt sample of isopods &
ostracods. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped 97-36

26 June 1997

Shark Bay, off Denham, ~600m offshore.

25°56.08'S 113°32.12'E. Baited trap set in 1m,
on sand bottom ~150m from nearest seagrass bed.

coll: J. Lowry et al. Exlnt sample of isopods &
ostracods. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-37

27 June 1997

Shark Bay, off Eagle Bluff, ~1km. from shore.

26°05'S 113°34'E. Large seagrass beds of 2 species:

Halodule & Cymodocea. 3-4m. Plankton net

pushed through grass beds. Coll: R.C. Brusca.

2 sample bags.

W.A. Exped. 97-38 27 June 1997

Shark Bay, off Eagle Bluff. $26^{\circ}05.24'S$
 $113^{\circ}34.36'E$. Mixed bottom of sea grass, oysters
& sponges. 2m. Baited trap. Coll: J. Lowry
& R.C. Brusca. 1 sample bag. many pods.

W.A. Exped. 97-39 27 June 1997

Shark Bay, off Eagle Bluff. $26^{\circ}05.52'S$
 $113^{\circ}34.36'E$. Sea grass. 2.5m. Coll: J. Lowry &
R.C. Brusca. 1 sample bag. Many pods.

W.A. Exped. 97-40 27 June 1997

Shark Bay, off Eagle Bluff. $26^{\circ}05.72'S$
 $113^{\circ}34.38'E$. Sand bottom. Coll: J. Lowry &
R.C. Brusca. 1 sample bag.

W.A. Exped. 97-41 27 June 1997

Shark Bay, off Eagle Bluff. $26^{\circ}05.62'S$
 $113^{\circ}34.58'E$. Rock bottom. Coll. J. Lowry &
R.C. Brusca. 1 sample bag.