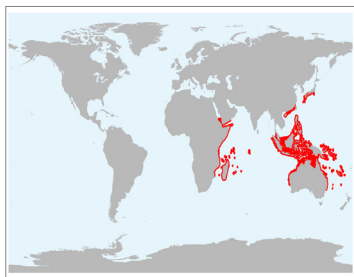




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: *Acanthastrea lordhowensis*

Acanthastrea lordhowensis is listed as Near Threatened on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This coral is found in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, from northern Australia and Madagascar in the south to southern Japan and China in the north.

The major threat to all coral species, including *Acanthastrea lordhowensis*, is climate change, in particular temperature extremes leading to bleaching and increased susceptibility to disease, increased severity of storms and ocean acidification. Other stressors such as destructive fishing practices, human development, invasive species, overcollection, pollution and sedimentation also contribute to the decline of many coral populations.

All corals are listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade in these species should be carefully monitored and controlled, and parts of the range of *Acanthastrea lordhowensis* fall within protected areas. Research into the population of the species, taxonomy, ecology, and threats has been recommended, as well as population surveys to any negative effects of collection on the wild population.

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