

Marine Biology

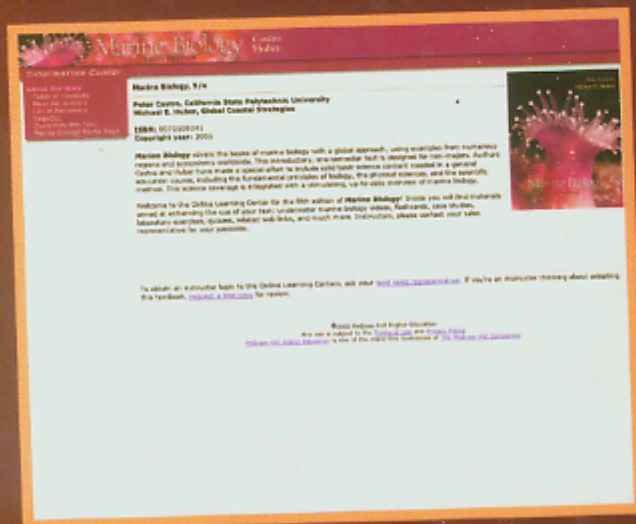


THE JEWEL ANEMONE (*Corynactis haddoni*) lives on rock walls and other hard surfaces exposed to currents on the open coast of New Zealand. It occurs from depths of about 2 to 30 m (7 to 100 ft). In shallow water the jewel anemone lives mostly in shaded spots, such as caves or under overhangs, but in the reduced light of greater depths it often grows on exposed walls. Most of the time it reproduces by fission, in which a polyp like this one divides to form two new polyps. The polyps remain connected by a single base, forming a colony. The individual polyps are about 1.5 cm (0.6 in) in diameter, but the colonies can grow to over 2 m. The white tips of the tentacles are packed with nematocysts, stinging structures in the surface layer of cells that the anemone uses to capture plankton.

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