SpectralDiscrimination of Coral Reefs on the Small Islands,Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

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10 Coral reefs play important ecological services such as providing foods, biodiversity, nutrient 11 recycling etc. for human society. On the other hand, they are threatened by human impacts such as 12 illegal fishing and environmental changes such as a rise of sea water temperature and sea level 13 due to global warming. Thus it is very important to monitor dynamic spatial distributions of coral 14 reefs and related habitats such as coral rubber, dead coral, bleached corals, seagrass, etc. 15 Hyperspectral data, in particular, offer high potential for characterizing and mapping coral reefs 16 because of their capability to identify individual reef components based on their detailed spectral 17 response. We studied the optical properties by measuring *in situ* spectra of living corals, dead coral 18 and coral rubber covered with algae. The study site was selected in Spermonde archipelago, South 19 Sulawesi, Indonesia because this area is included in the highest diversity of corals in the world 20 named as Coral Triangle, which is recognized as the global centre of marine biodiversity and a 21 global priority for conservation. Spectra were collected under generally clear skies, between 9:00 22 a.m. and 15.00 p.m. Central Standard Time, using a LOT-2 Spectra Corpspectroradiometer. The 23 samples comprised living and dead coral covered with alga and coral rubber covered with algae.A 24 total of 90 representative samples of living coral and 26 of dead coral covered with algae and 106 25 of coral rubber were selected randomly. Correlation analysis and Cluster analysis support that 26 distinct differences in reflectance spectra amongcategories existed. Common spectral characteristic 27 of living corals, dead corals and coral rubber covered with algae was a reflectance minimum at 674 28 nm.Healthy corals, dead coral covered with algae and coral rubber covered with algae showed high 29 similarity of spectral reflectance. It is estimated that this is due to photsynthetic pigments.

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31 Keyword : Hyperspectral data, spectral reflectance, coral rubber, livingcorals, dead corals

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34 1. INTRODUCTION

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36 Coral reefs are very important ecosystem in tropical waters. To conserve coral reefs, it is necessary to 37 monitor them). Therefore, spectra of coral reefs is very important information for dynamic coral reefs. 38 Several researchers have attempted to exploit hyperspectral data (from airborne and close range) to 39 study coral groups (e.g., Mumby et al., 1998; Hochberg and Atkinson, 2000; Mishra et al., 2004, 2007; 40 Clark et al., 1997, 2000; Myers et al., 1999; Schalles et al., 2000; Lubin et al., 2001; Joyce and 41 Phinn,2003; Kutser et al., 2003; and Mishra et al., 2006. Hochberg et al. (2003) provided a comprehensive literature review on in situ remote sensing research pertaining to coral reef 42 ecosystem. They classified types of coral communities -healthy coral, dead coral, algae, and sand 43 44 but only one of research have attempted in Indonesia by Holden and LeDrew in 1998, 2000 and 2001 45 to characterize coral groups using field radiometers at close range. Recents studies Hochberg et al. 46 (2006) and; Kutser and Jupp (2006), Stambler and Shashar (2007) and Rundquist et al. (2009) have 47 focused on coral species recognition, and the extent of variability in the reflectance spectra of corals 48 of specific species.Fundamental research regarding the spectral differencesbetween common coral 49 reef features is necessary. Therefore, it is important to determine the spectral characteristics of living 50 coral, dead coral and coral rubber covered with algae.

51 In this study, we were interested in examining the naturally occurring variations in reflection 52 spectra within a coral rubber, healthy and dead corals covered with algae of a given locality. The 53 objectives of our work were to: (1) document the spectral features of coral rubber, healthy coral and 54 dead corals covered with algaeas distributed within four study site in the Spermonde archipelago; and 55 (2) develop spectral library to determine whether living and dead corals covered with algae and coral rubber covered with algae are spectrally discriminable and how to achieve discrimination.Whereas, this research is expected as baseline information on optical characters of living and dead coral covered with algae and coral rubber covered with algae that can be used as a basic knowledge ininterpretating satellite images so that they facilitate in identifying existence and differentiating some healthy coral and dead coral covered algae, especially usinghyperspectral.

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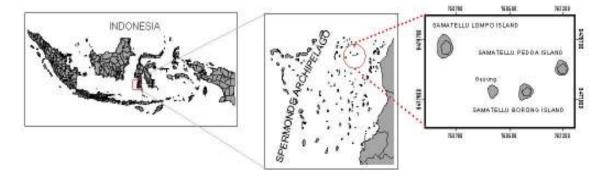
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2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

65 **2.1 Spectra collection**

66 Field data collectionwascarriedout in SamatelluLompo, SamatelluPedda, SamatelluBorong Island and 67 Gusung in Spermondearchipelago, Indonesia (9479612,68 N, 757922,94 E and 9478861,44 N, 68 762635,26 E; Figure 1.Spectra were collected on Januaryand Pebruary 2010 under generally clear skies. The data collection occurred between 9:00 a.m. and 15.00 p.m. Central Standard Time, using a 69 70 LOT-2 Spectra Corpspectroradiometer. The samples comprised living and dead coral covered with 71 alga and coral rubber covered with algae. Spot measurement of individual substrate types were made 72 from about 7 cm above the substrate, resulting in a field of view of about 1.5 cm. Each measurement took about half a minute, capturing over one hundred spectra (depending on the integration time) 73

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Fig1. Location of the Samatellu Lompo, Samatellu Borong, and Samatellu Pedda island study sites in
 Spermonde Archipelago, South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

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83 We studied the optical properties of the in situ measured living and dead coral covered with algae and 84 decided to devide the substrates into the following classes: live corals (Acroporaformosa, 85 Seriotoporastelata, Acroporamacrostomata, Acroporasarmentosa, Poritescolumnaris, Poritesmeyeri), 86 dead corals covered with algae (dead Porites and dead Acropora), coral rubber (<3 months and >3 87 months). In the present study the coral rubber were divided into recently (less than 3 month) and long 88 time (considerably greater than 3 months) coral rubber. Dead coral was greater than 3 months. Recently coral rubber began covered with turf algae and coralline white is visible clearly. Long 89 90 time coral rubber are mainly covered with turf algae that growing rapidly and significantly darker than 91 recently coral rubber and therefore more easily separable.

A total of 90representative samples of living coral and 26 of dead coral covered with algae and 106
of coral rubber were selected randomly. The reflectance spectra were taken over each sample
between 1 and 3 m in depth, and each spectrum was the result of averaging of individualscans
compiled over approximately 30 seconds total. The spectral range of the instrument is 300 - 1100 nm.
Spectra are sampled with 3 nm intervals. The total number of substrates for which reflectance spectra
were collected was 222.

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99 2.2 Data Analysis

Correlation analysis and Cluster analysis were applied to data analysis. Clusteranalysis was used to
 determine spectral similarity in and among coral species based on spectral responses at observed
 wavelengths. Similarity scale used was euclidean distance. Distance scale determined spectral

similarity and dissimilarity in which object with shorter distance would be more similar each other compared to object with longer distance.

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106 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

108 **3.1 Spectral Analysis**

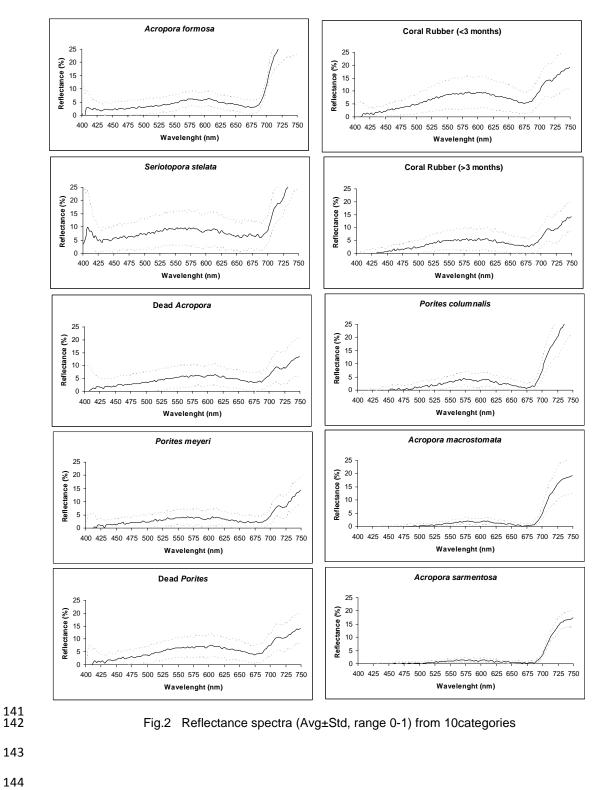
109 Our efforts focused primarily on measurements of living corals, dead corals covered with algae, and 110 coral rubber. Reflectance spectra (Avg± Std, range 0-1) from 10 categories are shown in Fig.2. The 111 coral rubber were divided into recently (less than 3 month) and long time (considerably greater than 3 112 month) coral rubber. Recently coral rubber began covered with turf algae and coralline white is visible 113 clearly. Long time coral rubberare mainly covered with turf algae that growing rapidly and significantly 114 darker than recently coral rubber and therefore more easily separable. The live corals, dead coral and 115 coral rubber had a similiar reflectance. This indicated that living corals couldn't be easily separated 116 from dead corals and coral rubber.

117 Dead Porites appeared similar in spectral magnitude and shape to dead Acropora (Fig.3B). They 118 have a peak reflectance at 605nm and reflectance minima at 674nm. Coral rubber display measured 119 spectra with reflectance minima at 674nm. All of the measured parts of the live corals showed 120 distinctive spectral features (Fig. 3C), such as a peak reflectance at 579nm, and drop at 674nm, and 121 a steep rise around 700nm. Furthermore, with few exception, Steriotopora stellate and recently coral 122 rubber spectra displayed highest reflectance (9%). The average maximum reflectance values were 123 between 4% and 9% for all categories. There were certain spectral features common to most living 124 corals, dead coral covered with algae and rubber covered with algae. Curva of mean apparent 125 reflectance spectra showed that there are more spectral variations in the shape of the curves of living 126 coral measurements than dead coral covered with algae measurements(Fig.3A,B), but there do not 127 appear to be any significant differences in spectral reflectance within dead coral covered with algae 128 category (Fig.3D). Reflectance was generally lower in the shorter wavelenght region (400-500nm) 129 and it most cases there were not distinctive features between substrates in this region.

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132 3.2 Correlation analysis

To examine the similarities between the categories, Paerson correlation coefficients were calculated as summerized in Table 1. The Pearson correlation coefisient considers the profile, or spectral, shape (Wilkinson et al., 1996), so the coefficients represent the similarities of the entire spectrum as a whole. The average spectrafor each 10 categories that comprise living and dead coral covered with algae and coral rubber were included in the correlation analysis. When the entire average spectrum is considered, the correlations between categories are high suggesting a high degree of similarity overall.



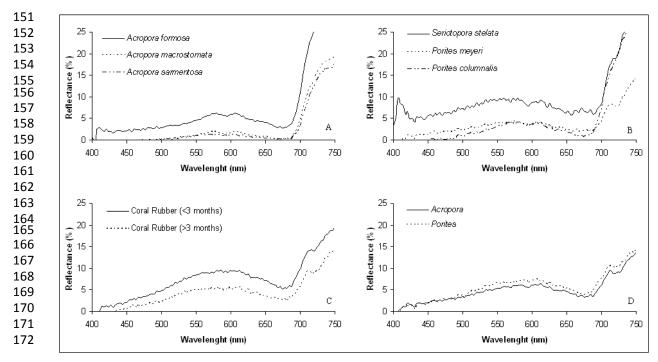


Fig. 3 Mean apparent reflectance spectra (%) of live coral acropora (A), live coral non acropora (B),
rubber covered with algae (C), dead coral covered with algae (D).Dead coral covered with algae are
represented by a reflectance spectrum of *Porites* and *Acropora*, live corals by *Acroporaformosa*, *Seriotoporastelata, Acroporamacrostomata, Acroporasarmentosa, Poritescolumnaris*,
and *Poritesmeyeri* spectrum

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179 Table 1. Correlation coefisien for 10 categories of live corals, dead corals covered with algae, coral

- 180 rubber covered with algae
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	Acroporaformos a	Acroporamacro stomata	Acroporasarme ntosa	<mark>Seriotoporastel</mark> ata	Poritesmeyeri	Poritescolumnal is	Coral Rubber (<3 months)	Coral Rubber (>3 months)	Dead Acropora	Dead Porites
Acroporaformosa	1									
Acroporamacrostomata	0.97	1								
Acroporasarmentosa	0.97	0.99	1							
Seriotoporastelata	0.96	0.93	0.94	1						
Poritesmeyeri	0.89	0.96	0.95	0.90	1					
Poritescolumnalis	0.96	0.99	0.99	0.95	0.98	1				
Coral Rubber (<3										
months)	0.86	0.91	0.89	0.84	0.95	0.93	1			
Coral Rubber (>3										
months)	0.77	0.88	0.86	0.76	0.96	0.90	0.96	1		
Dead Acropora	0.85	0.92	0.90	0.85	0.98	0.94	0.99	0.98	1	
Dead Porites	0.81	0.89	0.87	0.80	0.95	0.91	0.99	0.98	0.99	1

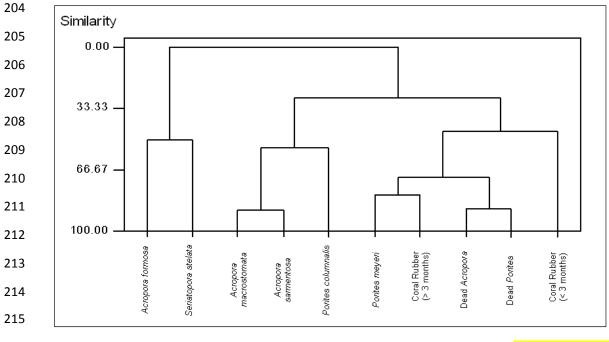
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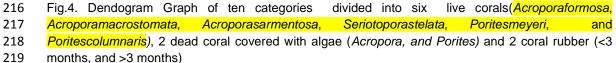
184 3.3 Spectral clustering

186 Cluster analysis is the generic name for a multivariate procedure of clumping similar objects into 187 caregories enabling identification of (1) outliers, and (2) the basic structure of the dataset. No 188 satisfactory general method has been developed for deciding how many clusters exist in data set of 189 unknown structure (Wilkinson et al., 1996). Therefore, the number of cluster is a subjective decision 190 based on knowledge of the dataset characteristics. The objective of cluster analysis is to determine 191 which objects are similar and dissimilar and categorize them accordingly (Holden and LeDrew., 1998).

Results of visualization at curve of reflectance curve were tested with cluster analysis applied to all of those coral species. In cluster analysis, it was found groups based on the spectral responses of each sample to eight wavelength groups and based on scale of similarity distance among these samples in which an object with shorter distance among samples would be more similar one to others compared to the objects having longer distance. Display of group division at overall wavelengths was presented in dendrogram graph as shown at Figure 4.

Based on Figure 3, there are many clusters as spectra, while on the right there is only one cluster. Therefore, moving from left to right denotes an encreasing degree of difference between spectra where a small Euclidean distance suggests that the spectra are most similar. Based on the reflectance values and formation of spectral curve pattern at the six live corals, two dead coral covered with algae, and 2 coral rubber, it can be observed that there is a similar spectral among categories.





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There were six main groups at similarity distance of 70,87% i.e. *Acroporamacrostomata* and *Acroporasarmentosa*having spectral similirity, categorized in one group. *Poritesmeyeri* having spectral similirity with old coral rubber, dead *Acropora* and dead *Porites*, categorized in one group. However, *Acroporaformosa, Seriotoporastelata, PoritesColumnaris*, recently coral rubberhave formed groups with himself. They have not shown a spectra similarity with another categories.

At similirity distance of 87,81%, it was show eight groups i.e. *Acroporamacrostomata* and *Acroporasarmentosa* categorized in one group. Dead *Acropora* and dead *Porites* having spectral similirity categorized in one group. *Acroporaformosa*, *Seriotoporastelata, PoritesColumnaris, Poritesmeyeri* recently coral rubber, and old coral rubber have not shown a spectra similarity with another categories. They have formed groups with himself.

232 3.4 Discussion

The Pearson correlation analysis revealed that when the entire spectral curve is considered, there is a strong correlation between and within the living corals, dead coral covered with algae and coral rubber covered with algae. Coral rubble is covered with epiphytic algae after bleaching by blast fishing activities. As time goes on, epiphytic algae become thicker. Reflectance of coral rubble is changed with period after bleaching. Epiphytic algae become visible size by three months after bleaching. By virtue of change in algae cover over time, it was possible to discriminate between coral rubber bleached less than 3 months, and more than 3 months.

Therefore coral rubble showed the similar shape but have a different of spectral magnitude and peak position between two groups of coral rubble. These differences could be used as precise indicators and predictors for identifying coral rubble conditions reflecting the chlorophyll concentration. It contributed significantly to the increase in value of reflectance.All photosynthetic organisms (living corals, dead corals covered with algae, and coral rubber covered with algae) displayed a reflectance minimum at approximately 674nm, a feature related to the presence of chlorophyll.

247 In generally, living corals, dead corals covered with algae and coral rubber spectra display a 248 reflectance minimum at 674nm. Additionally, all of the live coral and coral rubber spectra have a peak 249 in reflectance at 579nm. However, dead coral have a peak reflectance at 605nm. The object will tend 250 to reflect the same colour as its colour and to absorb the other colours so that the intended object will 251 have higher reflectance values at similar wavelength colour to the original colour. Similarly perceived 252 colors may be the outcome of different spectra. Therefore, it is beneficial, if often difficult, to examine 253 spectra rather than colors when attempting to classify corals (Clark et al., 1997; Holasek et al., 1998; 254 Holden and LeDrew, 1999; Hochberg and Atkinson, 2000; Hochberg et al., 2003; Mazel et al. 2003; 255 Mazel and Fuchs, 2003).

256 Reflectance spectra of their study are similar in shape ad magnitude to those of the our study. The 257 highest reflectance value of live corals was achieved at wavelengths of 579nm. Dead coral was 258 achieved a highest reflectance at 605nm. This is in aggreement with a study by Kutser et al (2003) 259 that hard coral had high mean reflectance value at wavelength 550-700nm. Similar trend was found 260 by Nurdin and Rani (2008) which take measurement in the laboratory that reflectance peak for hard 261 corals was at wavelength 550-620nm. Low value at blue and green wavelenghts are largely the result 262 of absorption by photosynthetic and photoprotective (Salih et al., 2000). Similarly, higher values at red 263 wavelenght indicate lack of absorption or presence of active fluorescence (Mazel, 1995).

Chlorophyll in the zooxanthellae is an efficient absorber of light at the wavelenght transmitted by seawater, but its fluorescence emission at 685nm and longer wavelenghts is strongly absorbed by seawater (Mazel and Fuchs, 2003). Our results are in general agreement with other studies, which measured light signals returned from corals. High spectral resolution measurements provide oppurtunities for more refined assessments, primary because of pigment specific absorbance bands and the great impact of pigments on intercepting light in the coral (Holden and LeDrew 1998).

270 The results of cluster analysis are encouraging with respect to the separability of live corals, dead 271 coral covered with algaeand coral rubber reflectance. Similarity level among groups formed was high 272 or on the other word spectral reflectance variability among ten categories was low. Porites meyeri was 273 in the same group with dead coral covered with algae and old coral rubber had a similiar reflectance. 274 This indicated that Porites meyeri couldn't be easily separated from dead corals and old coral 275 rubber.All photosynthetic organisms (living and dead corals covered with algae, coral rubber covered 276 with algae) displayed a reflectance minimum at approximately 595 nm and 674nm, a feature related 277 to the presence of chlorophyll. The living coral and coral rubber reflectance spectra showed the most 278 variation in shape and magnitude in comparison with the other groups. Within dead coral had the the 279 least variation in spectral shape. The results of study by Holden and LeDrew (1998) showing that the 280 healthy cluster include 2 bleached spectra and 2 macroalgae spectra. Thus, there is a certain degree 281 confusion between healthy coral, bleached coral and algae. Since the macro algae contain 282 photosynthetic pigments, the confusion with healthy coral containing zooxanthellae is understandable. 283 The overall results of this cluster analysis suggest good separability based on measured reflectance.

Similarity level among groups of live corals, dead coral covered with algae and coral rubber showed high similarity level or low variability of signal reflectance.Reflectance of coral is readily distinguishable from that of other reef bottom types (Hochberg et al. 2003). This indicates significant spectral differences between corals and other bottom types that are independent of coral groupings

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288 (e.g.,taxa), which further implies that variability in reflectance of coral must not be random (Hochberg 289 et al. 2004). In this respect, corals share a high degree of similarity in reflectance. At the same time, it 290 is possible that live corals and dead coral scovered with algae groups themselves are distinguishable 291 from each other. Discrimination between corals and other types may rely on spectral features that are 292 independent of those features that might discriminate between coral groups (Hochberg et al. 2004). 293 This was caused by difference in composition structure of coral corallite and corallite size (big or 294 small). We have documented that a differences in the magnitude and shapes of spectral curves from 295 different categories and a strong absorption of them at 674nm region (Fig. 3). However, the 296 interpretation of the peaks and shoulders of our spectra as areas of lower pigment activity and 297 absorbance is propably fluorescence features associated with the coral polyp host tissue (Mazel, 298 1995).

299 Our results described 9-38 spectral pattern within one category. For example, Porites meyeri (non 300 acropora) has 30 spectral pattern and dead Porites has 12 spectral pattern. At these categories 301 demonstrated that within and between live coral, dead coral and old coral rubber can present such a 302 range of colors, making spectral discriminatin between them difficult. According to a research by 303 Karpouzli and Malthus (2003), spectral reflectance among coral species showed high variability. This was caused by difference in pigment content of each substrates. Different pigments would reflect and 304 305 absorb light at different wavelengths, so that affecting their reflectance values. Longer wavelength 306 than 600nm will be absorbed by chlorophill-a, whereas the shorter wavelengths will be absorbed by 307 accessory pigments(Hochberg and Atkinson, 2004). Thus it is not surprising that reflectance of living 308 and dead corals and coral rubber also shows variability at these study.

309 We developed spectral library to determine whether live coral, dead coral covered with algae and 310 coral rubber covered with algae are spectrally discriminable and how to achieve discrimination. More 311 investigation is required to statistically determine the degrees to which various categories groupings 312 are spectrally discernable. Basically, every material has different structure or particle composition and 313 this difference influences its electromagnetic response pattern. We have shown that basic live corals, 314 dead corals and coral rubber have characteristic reflectance, that within them, and that they are 315 spectrally separable from each other. It was difficult to find a completely dead coral without 316 colonization by algae. Dead coral are not actually pure because trace amounts of macroalgae were 317 visible on the surface. The stage of dead coral is temporary and the affected corals will either recover 318 to their normal pigmentation or die and be colonized by macroalgae (Holden and LeDrew, 2001). 319 However, dead corals and coral rubber are rapidly colonised by algae whose pigmentation may be 320 similar to that of the coral's zooxanthellae, making the distinction between live corals, dead corals and 321 coral rubber more complicated.

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