

Coloured Band Diseases

2a. Skeletal Eroding Band (SEB)

- Diffuse, speckled black or dark green band at tissue-skeleton interface;
- Exposed skeleton behind tissue front speckled by empty "housings" of the boring ciliate, *Halofolliculina corallasia*;
- Exposed skeleton eroded in appearance;
- Diffuse, scattered patches of ciliates on bare skeleton without band formation may indicate secondary infection.

Key ID characteristics:

- Black "specks" often clustered within corallites; ①
- Sessile ciliates within "housings" comprise band; ②
- Microscopically, two "antenna-like" pericytostomial wings visible; ③
- Empty, black "housings" left behind as the disease front advances, creating speckling; ②
- Relatively slow rate of progression (~0.6mm/day);
- Common throughout the Indo-Pacific, affecting a wide range of coral families.

Commonly confused with:

- Black Band Disease, which does not have speckled appearance.

