

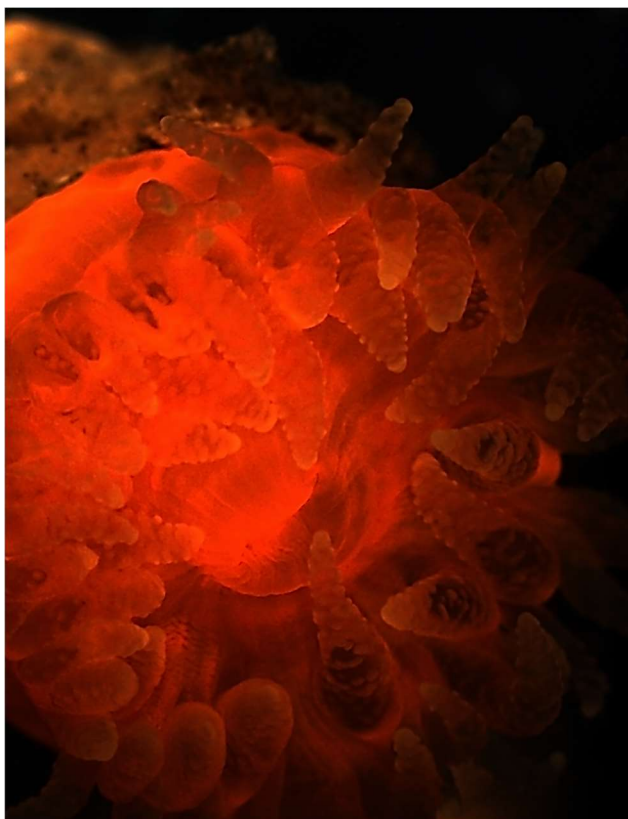


Art Feature—“Orange Cup Coral (*Balanophyllia elegans*)”

Lincoln Hopkins, Biology and Music*

This is a photo of a member of the species Orange Cup Coral (*Balanophyllia elegans*) taken underneath a dissection scope at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology—one of the University of Oregon’s satellite campuses. The specimen was collected by University of Oregon students from the intertidal zones off the coast of Charleston, Oregon to better understand and examine different types of corals as *B. elegans* is different from other corals in that it grows separately from a colony.

This photo represents the hands-on learning techniques undergraduate students used to investigate and observe a species rather than listening to a lecture. We noticed that the coral’s tentacles would only retract when organic matter touched it or if it were taken out of water. This made us question why, and we developed our own hypotheses to test in the hopes of answering this question. Not only was this coral beautiful to look at, but it sparked curiosity, questions, and critical thinking from the students observing it. I believe this fits the spirit of undergraduate research as it was an experience that encouraged intrigued students to learn further and conduct more research. Special thanks to Mack Hughes for the assistance in taking this photo.



*Lincoln Hopkins is a biology and music double major at UO. In the future, he would like to pursue a career that focuses on the intersections between ecology and education. In his spare time, he loves to play piano and write music. Please direct correspondence to lincolnh@uoregon.edu.