

GROWTH RATES OF GASTROPODS AND CORALS ON A RECENT LAVA
FLOW AT BANDA, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

In May, 1988, a volcanic eruption at Gunung Api in Banda, Maluku, Indonesia, flowed into the sea, building small new headlands of boulders and cobbles. The cooled flow provided ideal conditions for fringing coral reef growth by creating a well-lighted hard surface extending seaward from the former shoreline. We estimated maximum radial extension of *Acropora* sp., probably *A. hyacinthus*, at 14 cm yr⁻¹ as of November, 1996. The largest of seven living gastropod species observed was *Haliotis asinina* (shell length 6.3-8.1 cm), followed by *Latirolagena smaragdula* (to 4.5 cm) and five *Conus* species 1.2-3.3 cm in shell length. The largest *L. smaragdula* and *C. lividus* were about 10 % larger than expected for 8 year old animals according to published growth curves from the Great Barrier Reef. However, *Haliotis asinina* could have attained the maximum observed shell length in as little as 3 years, were its growth curve similar to those published for the same species under culture conditions in Thailand and Philippines .