Cabbage Leather Coral

Scientific Name: *Sinularia dura*
Class: Anthozoa
Order: Alcyonacea
Family: Alcyoniidae

The cabbage leather coral (*Sinularia dura*) is a soft coral most often found in low growing colonies attached to harder substrates such as rubble or other dead corals. The coral is characterized by broad blunt ruffled lobes that resemble cabbage leaves covered in fringe-like retractable feeding polyps, and can be found in colors ranging from brown, tan, cream, pink, purple, yellow and grey.
Leather corals are very hardy soft corals that flourish in aquariums. Sinularia dura form small, low-growing colonies on hard substrates such as rubble or dead coral. They can grow so densely that their prominent "leaves" will often overlap. The tissue is dry and leathery, thus the term "leather coral".

Range
Red Sea and Indo-Pacific

Habitat
Near shore in shallow water, flat reefs and attached to rubble-like substrates.

Gestation
Unknown

Litter
Unknown

Behavior
The Cabbage Leather Coral releases toxic terpenes (poisons) that ward off encroaching corals.

Reproduction
In the wild, leather coral reproduces asexually in several ways, such as fission, budding, fragmenting and/or branch dropping. With asexual fragmentation, a section will separate from the parent colony and attach itself to another suitable location. The distribution of corals is constrained by extremes in such physical factors as light, temperature, sedimentation, tidal exposures, and wave stress.

Wild Diet
Sinularia corals have several different methods of feeding. They are photosynthetic, having a symbiotic relationship with the zooxanthellae algae that live in their tissue. Zooxanthellae provide them with oxygen, nutrients via photosynthesis, and aide in waste removal. Cabbage Leather Coral can also use their polyps to obtain nutrients from microscopic food in the water.