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RECRUITMENT IN THE GIANT CLAM TRIDACNA GIGAS AND T. DERASA AT
FOUR SITES ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

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ABSTRACT

Low levels of recruitment of giant clams which have been found in other studies were confirmed again for four study sites on the Great Barrier Reef of Australia from late 1981 to late 1985. However, in early 1987 a major recruitment of Tridacna gigas was discovered at Lizard Island. Subsequently, a mapping/tagging survey was carried out. The 127 T. gigas recruits found in the 1.2 ha area surveyed were estimated to be 12-18 mo. old and is the largest recruitment found to date for this species. This recruitment follows a mass mortality of adult clams, mainly T. gigas, at Lizard Island reefs beginning in mid-1985.

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