

**Hong Kong Natural History Society**  
**May 2017 Crescent Island Boat Outing Report**

17 members met at Ma Liu Shui Public Pier for our first boat outing of the season. Though it was drizzling, we looked on the brighter side that it may clear up later in the day and hoped for clearer visibility at Crescent Island. The weather forecast of the day was unstable.



*The famous Ghost's Fist at different angles from the boat.*

Our first programme was to look at the geographical features and rock formation of 3 Geo areas of the Hong Kong National Geopark – Tolo Channel, Port Island and Double Haven. Each area has unique geological features and landforms, showcasing a range of sedimentary rocks, including Devonian sandstone and conglomerate formed about 400 million years ago. And the early Tertiary siltstone formed 55 million years ago. They represent a complete record of the geological history of Hong Kong for about 400 million years, including the changes in sea level, tectonic movements, weathering and erosion.



After rock viewing, we went through Hung Shek Mun Channel which was very scenic and peaceful. We arrived at Crescent Bay at 12:30. All of us chose to have lunch on board. After lunch, Mr. Li took us in 3 groups, one after the other, to observe the 2 stretches of coral on both sides of the bay. The simple viewers held on both sides of the small motor boat were surprisingly clear. Members reported

seeing colourful orange and green corals, some of which we believe some were brain corals (*Platygyra* spp.) and honey comb corals (*Favia* and *Favites* spp.).



*(Resource: Google website, AFCD website)*

Corals grow in warm and truly marine saline water with moderate wave action and free from heavy sedimentation. They require sunlight for photosynthetic activities. Therefore, in Hong Kong, they are found mainly in coastal shores away from the influence of the Pearl River to the west where marine water is turbid and has low salinity. Although Hong Kong's environment is not optimal for many coral species to grow, 84 species out of 800 worldwide can be found. They form communities in the sheltered shallow coastal waters along the north-eastern shores of Hong Kong. Members also reported finding clown fish, sea cucumber and sea urchins on the day.



After coral viewing, some members decided to go for a swim. It all ended when two big jellyfish were spotted close to our swimmers. We left Crescent Bay at 4:00, returning to Ma Liu Shui at 5:30. We felt it was a good boat outing, with rock and coral viewing not much affected by rain – our target accomplished!

*Text Mak Wei Ming*

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