Epibiota methods

Quadrats (0.5m^2) randomly placed along a shore parallel 100 m transect
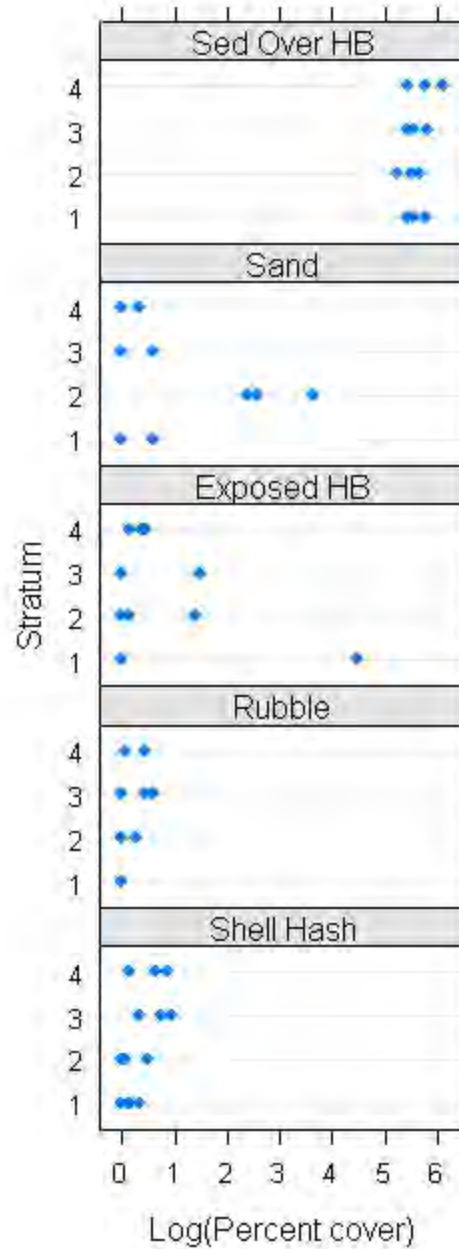
Measured variables

Percent cover of substrate
Percent cover of epibiota (algae, sponges, bryozoa, stony corals)
Estimate average and maximum size of dominant algae taxa
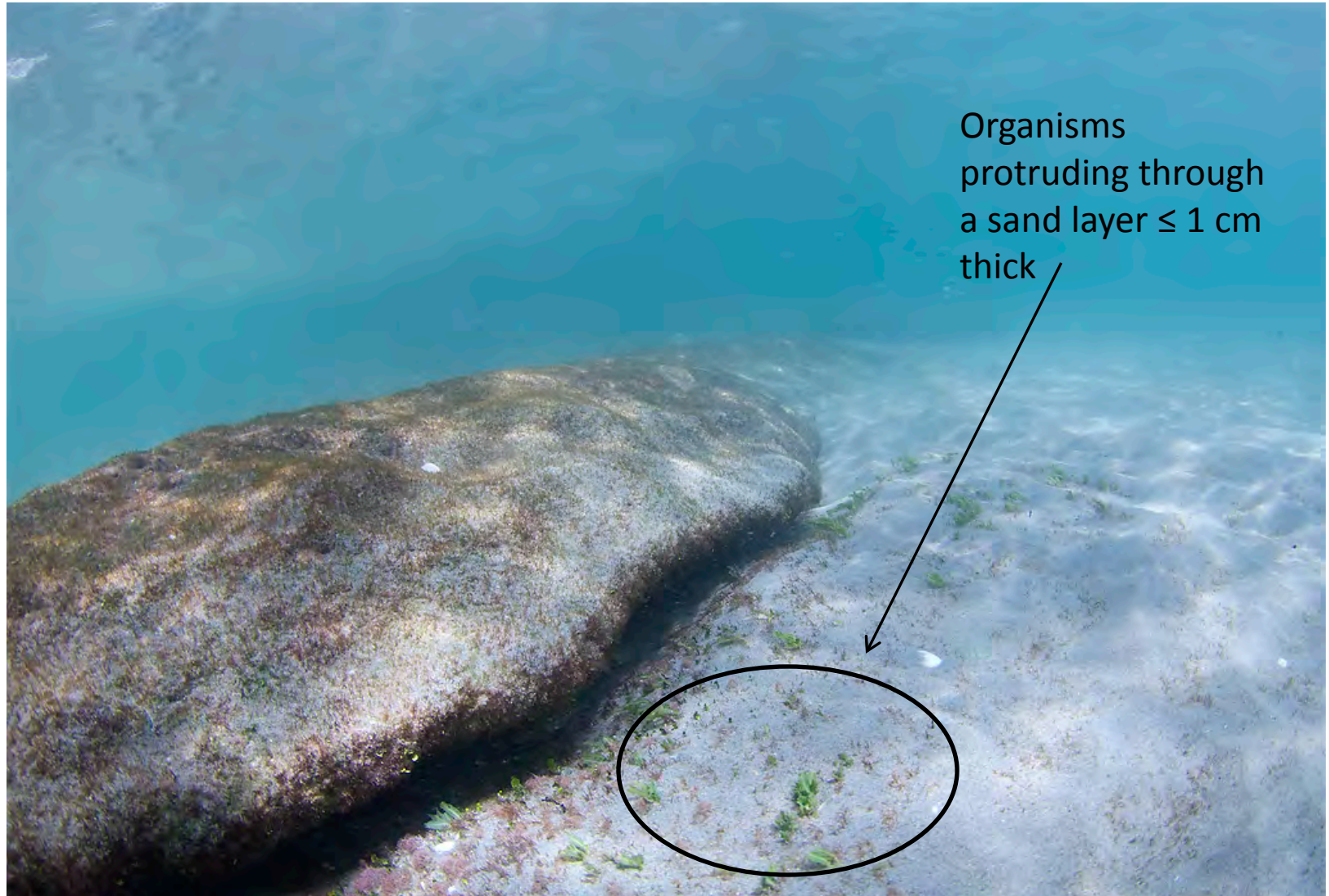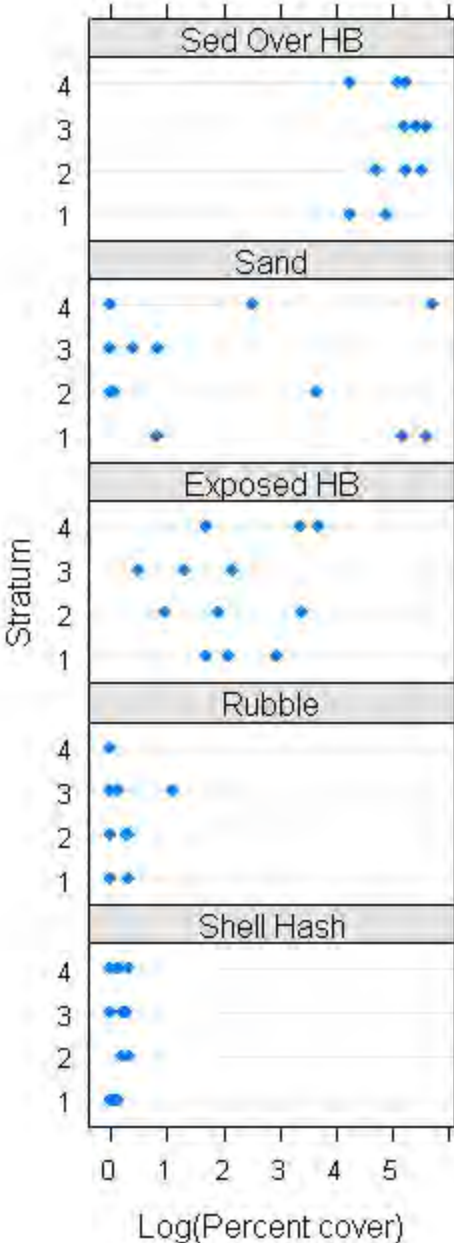Measure colony size of stony corals
Measure height of octocoral colonies

Summary of major substrate categories from quadrat sampling on natural hardbottom
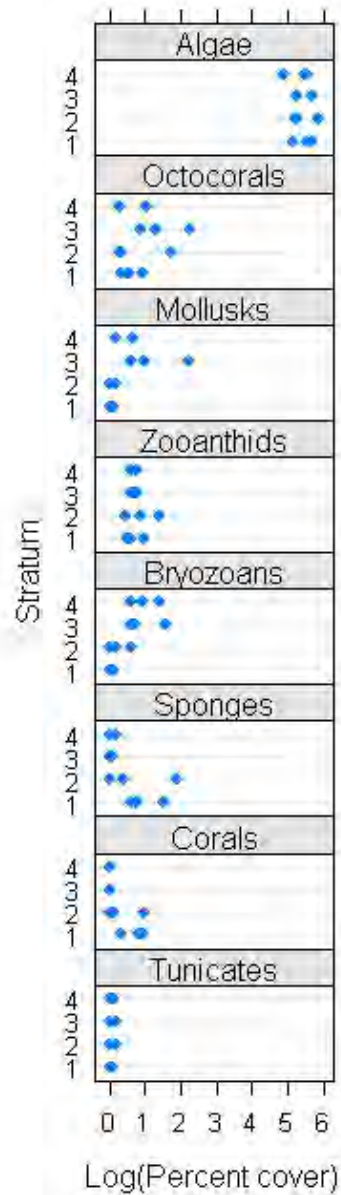
Example of sediment over hardbottom

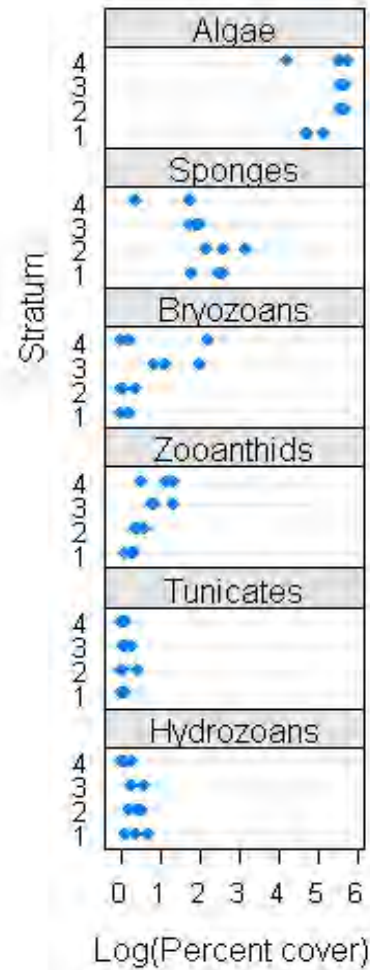Organisms protruding through a sand layer ≤ 1 cm thick

Summary of major substrate categories from quadrat sampling on artificial reefs
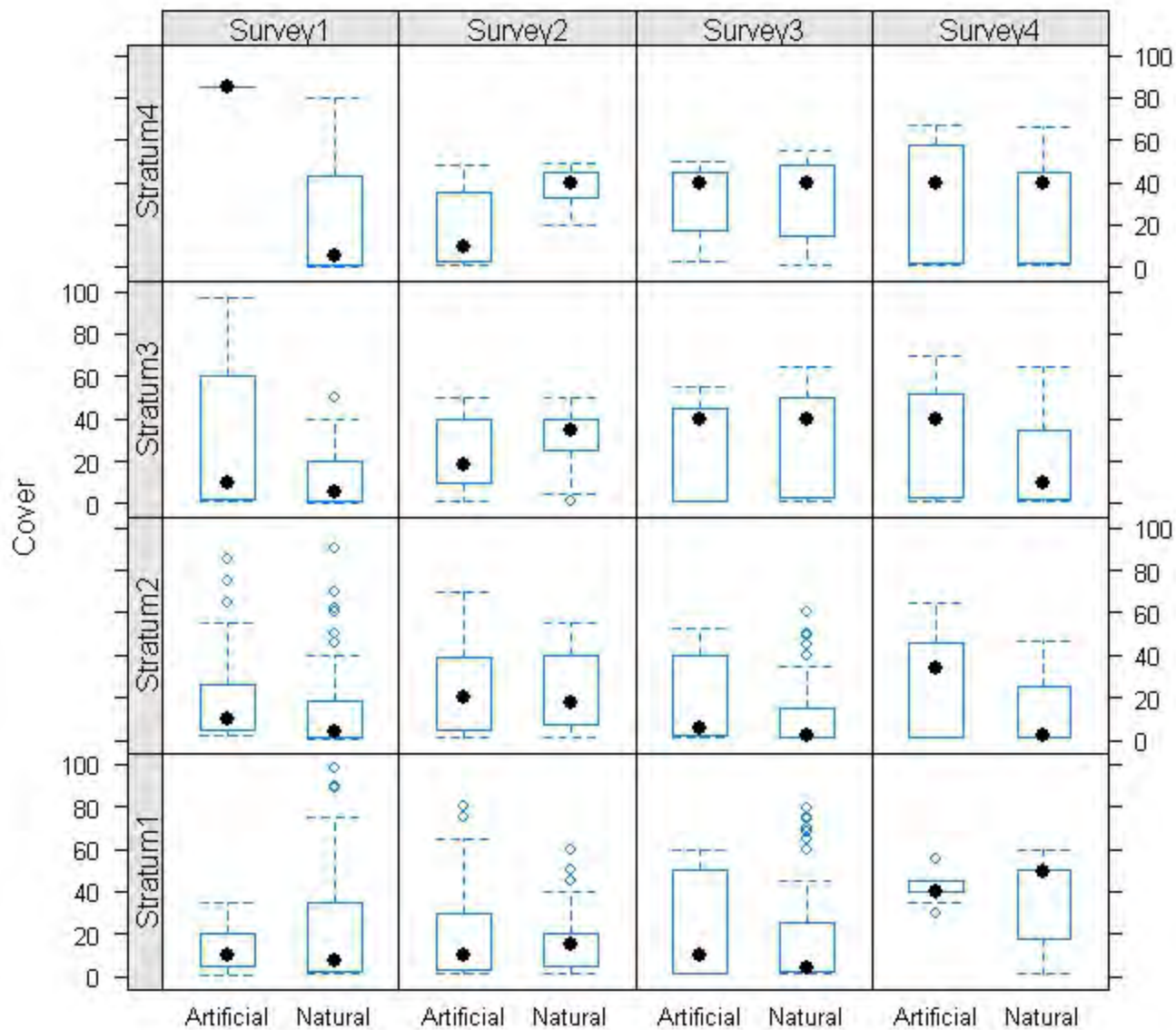
Summary of major taxonomic groups from quadrat sampling on natural hardbottom
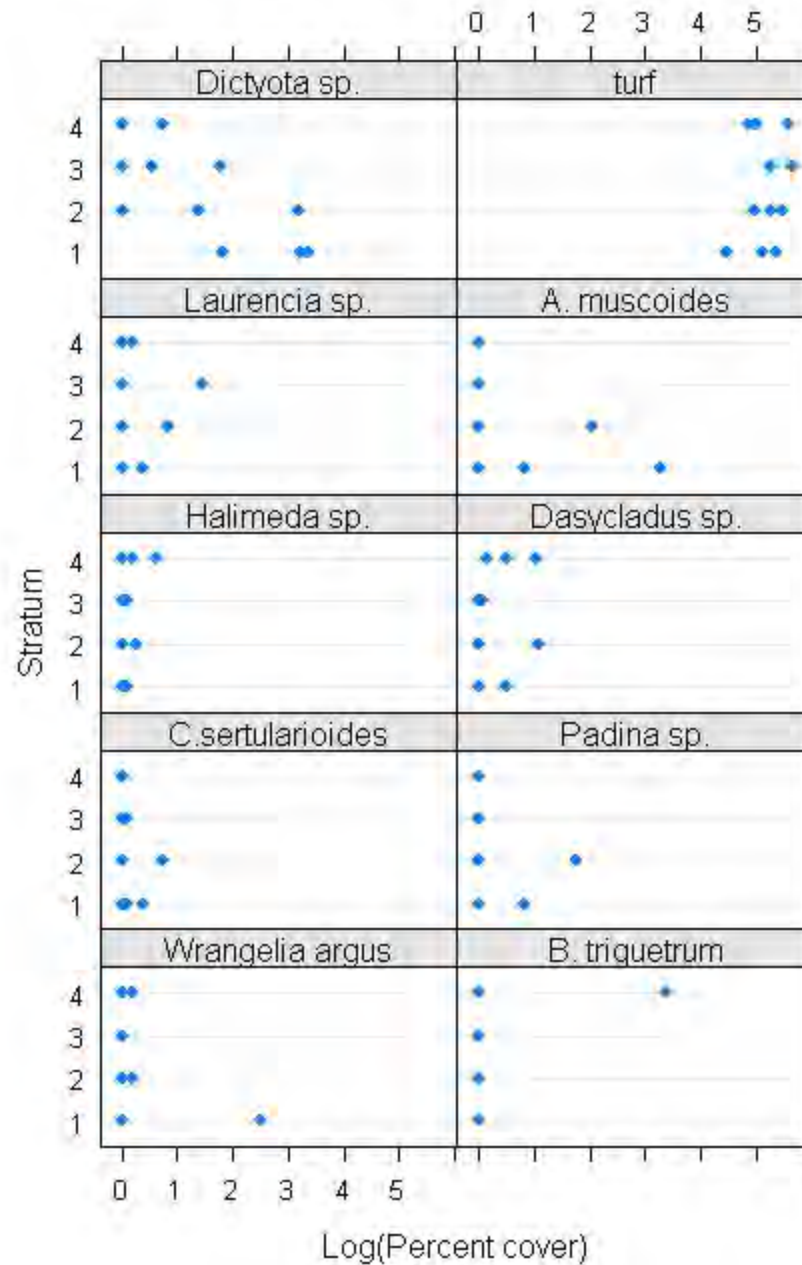
Summary of major taxonomic groups from quadrat sampling on artificial reefs

Comparison of percent algal cover between natural hardbottom and artificial reefs
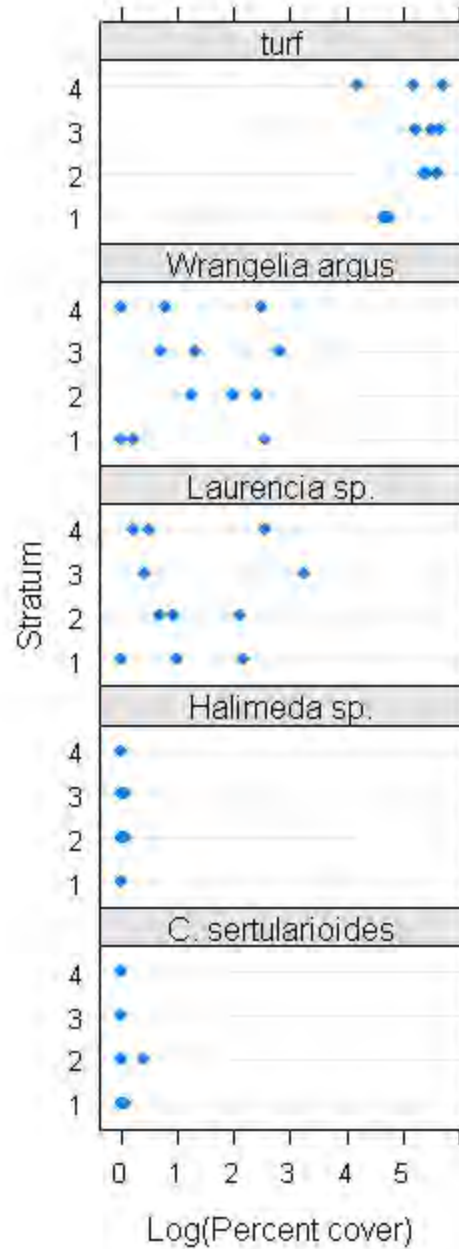
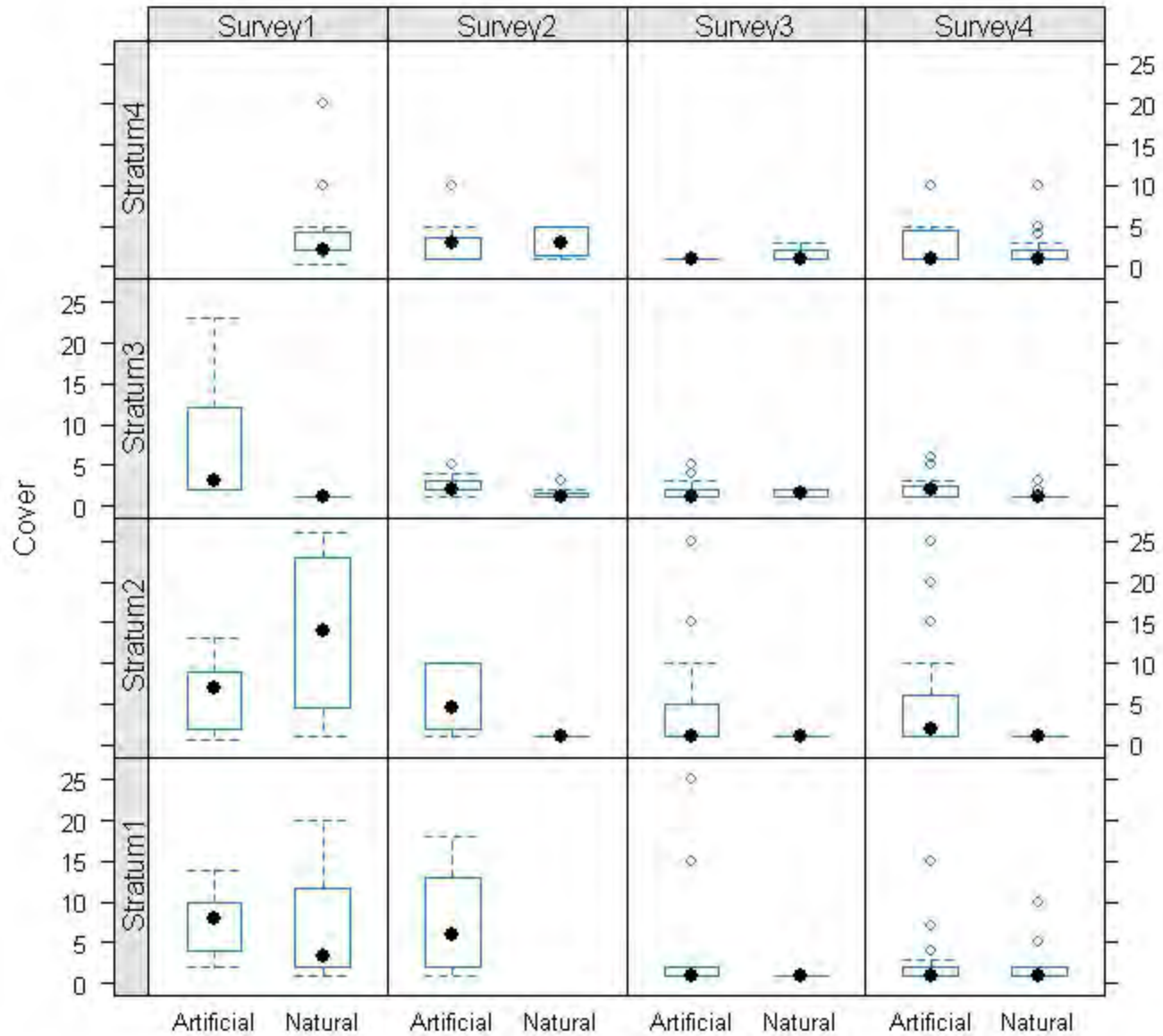Percent cover by algal taxa on natural hardbottom

Brown algae (*Dictyota* sp.) on Stratum 1 off Palm Beach

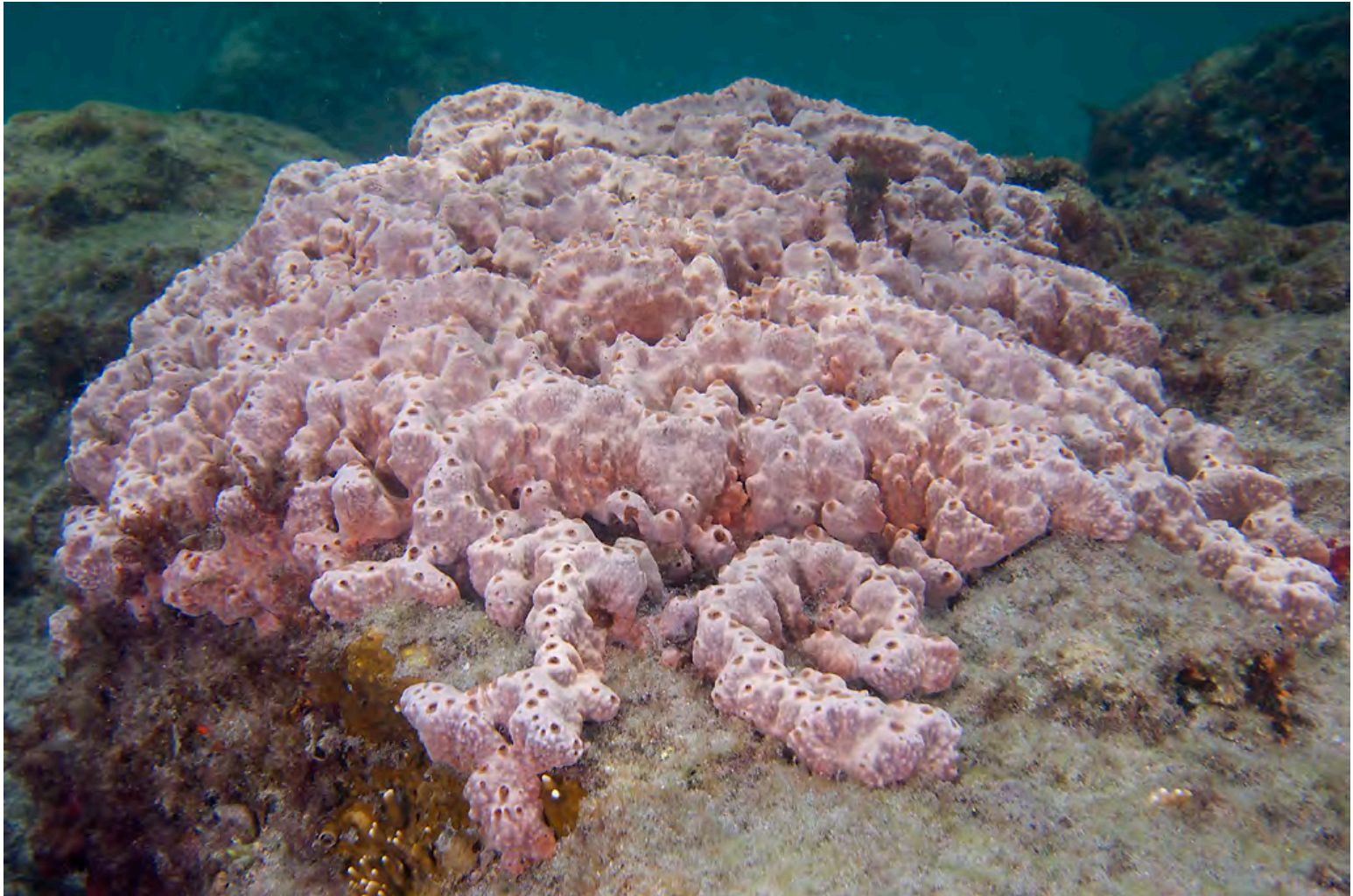Percent cover by algal taxa on artificial reefs

Comparison of percent cover by sponges between natural hardbottom and artificial reefs
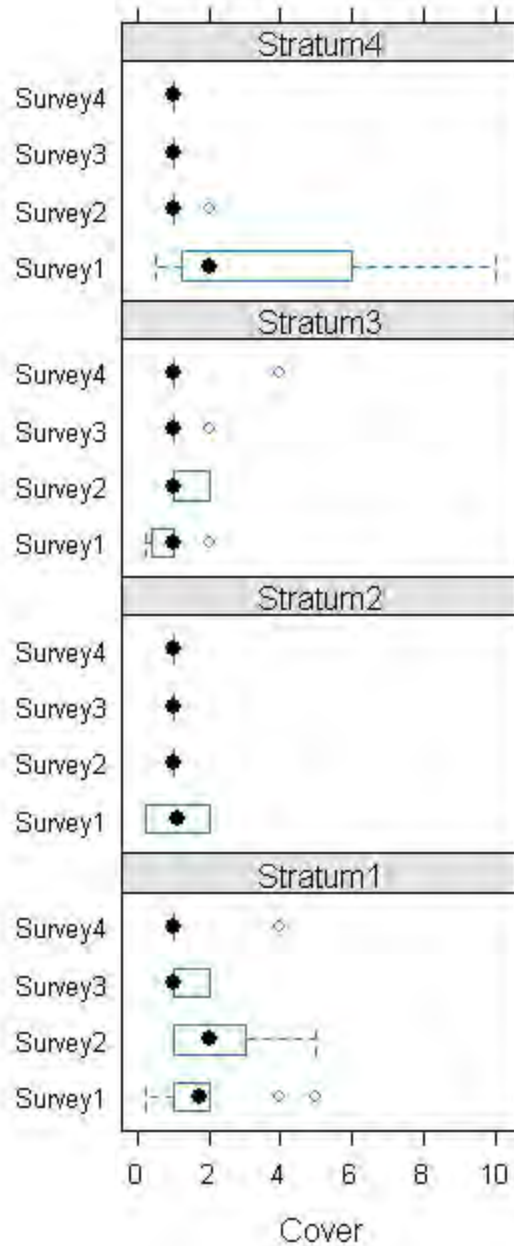
Encrusting sponge (*Pione lampa*) Stratum 2 Singer Island artificial
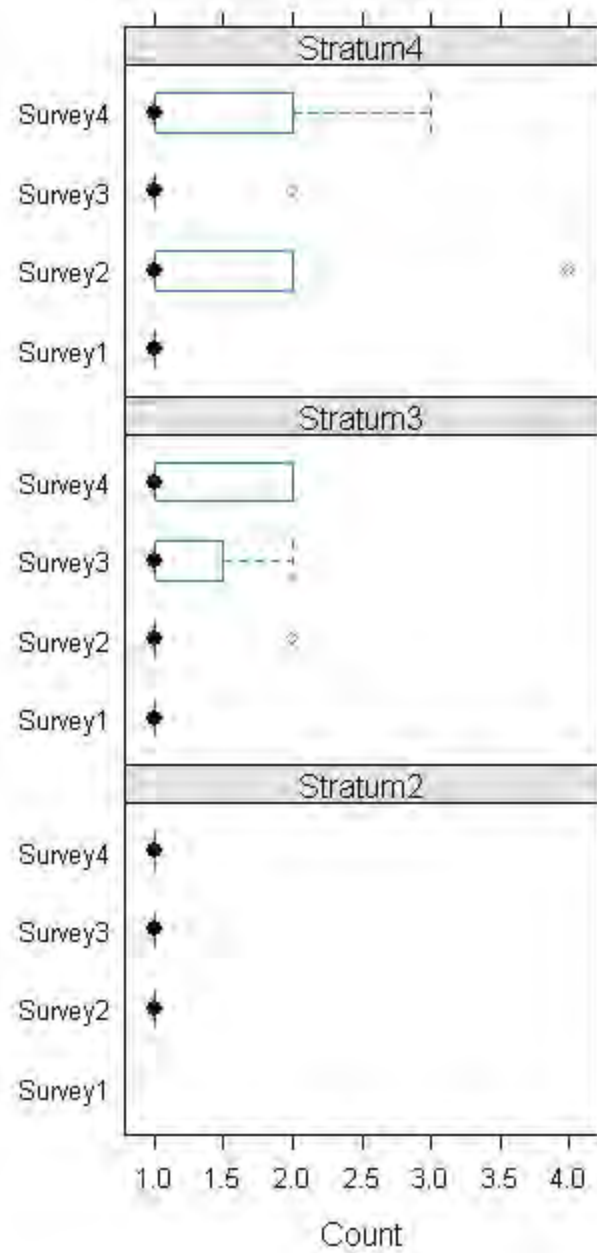
Sponge on artificial reef Stratum 3

Percent cover of stony corals on natural hardbottom

Stony coral (*Siderastrea* sp.) on Stratum 1 off Palm Beach

Counts of octocorals on natural hardbottom

Octocoral (*Pseudoplexuara* sp.) Stratum 3 off Palm Beach