





**Devonshire cup coral, *Caryophyllia smithii***

Museum of Comparative Zoology SC 72

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Exhibit on display at the Harvard Museum of Natural History

[Sea Creatures in Glass](#)

Before they were commissioned to make the Glass Flowers for Harvard University, father and son artists Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka were making meticulously crafted glass marine animals that were sold in scientific catalogues. During the late 1800s, the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology purchased more than 400 models for the museum, amassing what is now one of the world's largest surviving collections. This model could be purchased for \$1.00 in the 1878 H.A. Ward's *Catalogue of Glass Models of Invertebrate Animals*.

*Caryophyllia smithii* is a solitary species of coral that is characterized by a cup-shaped stony skeleton with an elliptical base and a diameter of up to one inch. It is native to the northeastern Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.

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