



S1 Fig. Growth increments of TDs in some zooxanthellate (A,B) and azooxanthellate (C,D) corals whose morphological or microstructural features do not fit traditional criteria of symbiotic vs. non-symbiotic relationships. Microstructure of morphological “exceptions”: large and solitary zooxanthellate *Cynarina lacrymalis* (ZPAL H.25/43) (A) forms regular growth increments, whereas colonial and azooxanthellate *Astroides calycularis* (ZPAL H.25/58) (C) forms irregular bands. Exceptions from microstructural criterion: growth increments in skeleton of deep-water symbiotic coral *Leptoseris fragilis* (ZPAL H.25/48) (B) is not as regular as in many shallow-water zooxanthellate taxa, whereas in shallow-water (4–6m depth) asymbiotic *Tubatrea tagusensis* (ZPAL H.25/71) (D) banding pattern is clearly regular. Red arrows = regular bands, yellow arrows = irregular bands. SEM micrographs.