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Diversity and evolution of coral-dwelling gall crabs (Cryptochiridae: Opecarcinus)

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Propositions

1. Uncovering the hidden biodiversity of inconspicuous taxa is needed to appreciate the high biodiversity in coral reef ecosystems. (this thesis)
2. The dispersal and distribution patterns of many marine organisms are primarily driven by oceanographic conditions, which are in turn influenced by our global climate. (chapter 2)
3. Traditional classification systems, mostly based on morphological characters, have been useful in helping us understand the diversity of life on Earth, but they also have significant limitations. Integrative taxonomy attempts to overcome these limitations by considering various data types for taxonomic and systematic studies. (chapter 3)
4. A symbiotic lifestyle in crabs may result in higher energetic demands, as evidenced by the presence of sites under positive selection in their mitochondrial protein-coding genes. (chapter 4)
5. “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the one most adaptable to change.” (Charles Darwin)
6. Coral reefs, along with their symbiotic organisms, are facing serious challenges to their survival.
7. “Life did not take over the world by combat, but by networking.” (Lynn Margulis)
8. The rich niches provided by coral reefs may contribute to the high abundance of symbiotic assemblages. (chapter 5)
9. The PhD journey can be lonely, but there is something incredibly rewarding about pursuing a PhD.
10. “Every breath we take, every drop we drink, depends on a healthy ocean, a healthy sea that supports a vast diversity of life.” (Sylvia Earle)