On the symbiosis of species in coral reefs

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Propositions

accompanying the dissertation

On the symbiosis of species in coral reefs

1. The ongoing threats to stony corals also impact their associated fauna, which depend on corals for survival (*Chapters 1-2*).
2. Genetic and genomic resources are useful to unravel the life and evolutionary history of coral associates (*Chapters 3-4*).
3. Investigating the diet of coral symbionts aids in the understanding of the nature of the symbiotic relationship between host and symbiont (*Chapter 5*).
4. Simple statistical tools can help make difficult decisions when in the field (*Chapter 6*).
5. The most threatened stony corals are not those that support most biodiversity (*Chapter 7*).
6. Long term ecological monitoring is necessary to discern between natural and anthropogenic ecosystem changes (*Chapters 7-8*).
7. Understanding the nature of symbiosis between host and symbiont can aid in predicting the future of the latter (*this thesis*).
8. Neglecting research on the small coral reef fauna means ignoring a significant part of the ecosystem (*this thesis*).
9. The value of an investment cannot be measured by its immediate or short-term financial return.
10. Exploring diverse interests fosters creative thinking and opens the world to new possibilities.
11. In academia, productivity is the measure for success, often at the expense of mental wellbeing. True success needs to be a balance of the two.
12. Gender and racial bias in research, and society, is a severe ongoing issue that impedes the advancement of knowledge.

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