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## Phylogenetic ecology of octocoral - gastropod associations

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Propositions belonging to the thesis:

**“Phylogenetic ecology of octocoral - gastropod associations”**

1. Octocoral host species can be indicative for the identification of Ovulidae genera or species. — *This thesis*
2. Convergent evolution of ovulid shell shapes obscures the relationships within the family Ovulidae. — *This thesis*
3. The conspicuous mantle patterns in Ovulidae should be used with caution for species identification. — *This thesis*
4. No more Ovulidae genera or species should be described, based on shell morphological features alone.  
*Pro: Rosenberg, 1994. An introduction to the Ovulidae (Gastropoda: Cypraeacea)*  
*Contra: Lorenz and Fehse, 2009. The living Ovulidae. Conchbooks, Hachenkeim, p. 18.*
5. Taxonomists and systematisists entering the field of “Next Generation Sequencing” are forced to start symbiotic relationships with bioinformaticians.
6. Most scientific indices used to rate the quality and quantity of scientific output force scientists to commensalistic behaviour.
7. Shell dealers should refrain from describing new species in non-peer reviewed journals.
8. The next inevitable step in molecular analyses for taxonomic purposes is the use of full genome data, but remains impossible without the “antiquated” taxonomist.
9. Ovulid snails of the genus *Aclyvolva* cannot count to eight.
10. In light of Thomas Edisons’ quote “I have not failed a 1,000 times. I have successfully discovered 1,000 ways NOT to make a light bulb”, The Journal of Negative Results should get more attention by the scientific community.