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## **Diversity and distribution of octocorals and scleractinians in the Persian Gulf region**

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## Curriculum Vitae

Kaveh Samimi-Namin was born on 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 1982 in Tehran, Iran. He grew up and received his early education in Tehran. After receiving his high school diploma in science, he enrolled in a marine biology undergraduate course at Gorgan University of Agriculture, in one of the northern provinces of Iran where his passion for taxonomy and zoology developed further.

After completing of his undergraduate course and receiving his Bachelor's degree in Marine Biology in 2004, he started his Master of Science in Marine Biology at Khoram-Shahr University, in the south of Iran. In October 2007, he completed his M.Sc. on octocoral community structure of one of the Iranian Islands of the Persian Gulf in collaboration with Naturalis Biodiversity Center (NBC), Leiden, Netherlands. It was during this period that Kaveh started collaborating with NBC as a research associate that deepened his interest in coral communities in general and octocoral taxonomy in particular. He had a chance to exchange ideas and collaborate with many prominent scientists around the world who shared his passion for corals. In December 2008, he was formally accepted as a PhD candidate at the Institute for Biology at Leiden University (IBL) and NBC.

In order to support himself and his family during this time he decided to work part time while also pursuing his academic studies. He spent some time at Iranian National Institute for Oceanography as a part time researcher and then worked as a consultant marine ecologist in several national and international projects. After few years, he worked as a marine ecologist consultant in Oman where he continued to pursue his scientific curiosity and continued his journey exploring, investigating, and learning about coral biodiversity and its ecology.

Some of the key results obtained during this period are represented in this thesis, while others were published separately. None of these results would have been possible without the support, advice and guidance received from numerous colleagues, friends, and researches around the world for which I am most grateful.

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