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

Samimi-Namin, K.

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**Author:** Samimi-Namin, Kaveh

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Stellingen  
behorende bij het proefschrift van  
Kaveh Samimi-Namin

“Diversity and distribution of octocorals and scleractinians  
in the Persian Gulf region”

1. The known diversity and distribution of shallow water octocorals in the NW Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, Oman Sea, and the Arabian Sea, is much higher than previously thought. *This thesis.*
2. In contrast to the pattern of hard coral diversity, with its maximum located in the Coral Triangle region, some octocoral genera are most diverse in the western Indian Ocean. *This thesis.*
3. The central Indian Ocean is an understudied area that could provide critical information about diversity patterns of octocorals in the Indo-Pacific. *This thesis.*
4. The Persian Gulf may serve as a model ecosystem for studying climate change. *This thesis.*
5. Our knowledge of octocoral diversity is still poor because octocoral taxonomy requires a time-consuming combination of fieldwork, microscopic analyses and DNA sequencing.
6. A better understanding of the shallow water coral fauna should get priority over research regarding the deep water species.
7. Whenever possible, taxonomic classifications should be based on a combination of morphology and data derived from molecular methods.
8. The value of taxonomy is being neglected, and eventually this will result in a lack of taxonomists in the future.
9. Scientists should report results of their research, whether they support their hypothesis or not, as accurately and unbiased as possible.
10. Everybody’s experience of the world is different. The key to peace is respect.
11. Always be thankful to the people who supported you during your journey. This will avoid being embarrassed when your paths cross in the future.