

Seeking outstanding MSc students to join a new research project:

**The Indo-Pacific zooxanthellate octocorals:
an integrated approach to species delimitation,
phylogenetics and biogeography**

Soft corals are the second-most abundant benthic organisms on coral reefs, where they compete for space. Today, we do not know how many and which species co-occur and contribute to the reef communities. At the root of this deficiency lies taxonomic uncertainty: we lack the knowledge necessary to distinguish and identify species reliably. The overarching goal of this project is to address this need by validating the identity of all the species of zooxanthellate soft corals found throughout the Indo-Pacific.



We will integrate barcoding and documentation of morphological characters to delimit species among museum material and new collections. Type material will be re-described as necessary, and sequenced to facilitate correct assignment.

Enthusiastic, creative, and independent students are welcome to submit applications with a CV, degree certificates, and letters of recommendations to Prof. Hudi Benayahu, School of Zoology, Tel Aviv University at yehudab@tauex.tau.ac.il