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Summary

Increasing anthropogenic impacts are individually and interactively affecting benthic coral reef organisms, altering their relative abundances. On the global scale, ocean warming and acidification has contributed to shifts in the competitive balance between corals and algae, to favour non-calcareous macroalgae (i.e. fleshy seaweeds). As macroalgae can be increasingly abundant on degraded reefs, this project aims to examine the plasticity of tropical non-calcareous macroalgae in a continuously changing environment. Specifically, evaluating the mechanisms by which macroalgae assimilate carbon and how the ecophysiological responses in macroalgae differ. Examining the role of physiological mechanisms and the varied responses in fleshy macroalgae to global environmental changes can differentially affect population dynamics, and will have various implications to the overall structure and function of reefs in the future.

Research Expertise

- Coral reef ecology
- Algal physiology
- Climate change