



Noam Altman-Kurosaki

Herz Global Impact Award
Ph.D. Candidate, Biology
Third Year ARCS Scholar



Georgia Tech




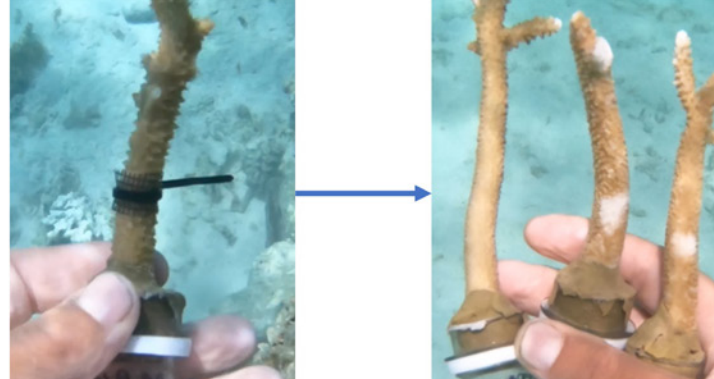
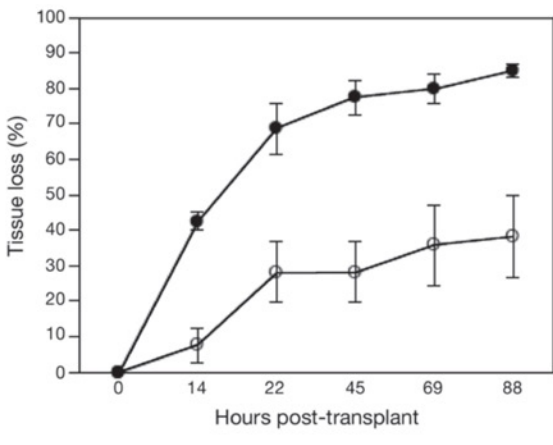
Shifts in coral-algae-herbivore interactions in Mo'orea, French Polynesia

By examining how local stressors affect factors like fish behavior, can we identify interventions to help save coral reefs?

Fish provide a variety of direct and indirect benefits to coral reefs.

I often focus on the impact of the dusky damselfish.

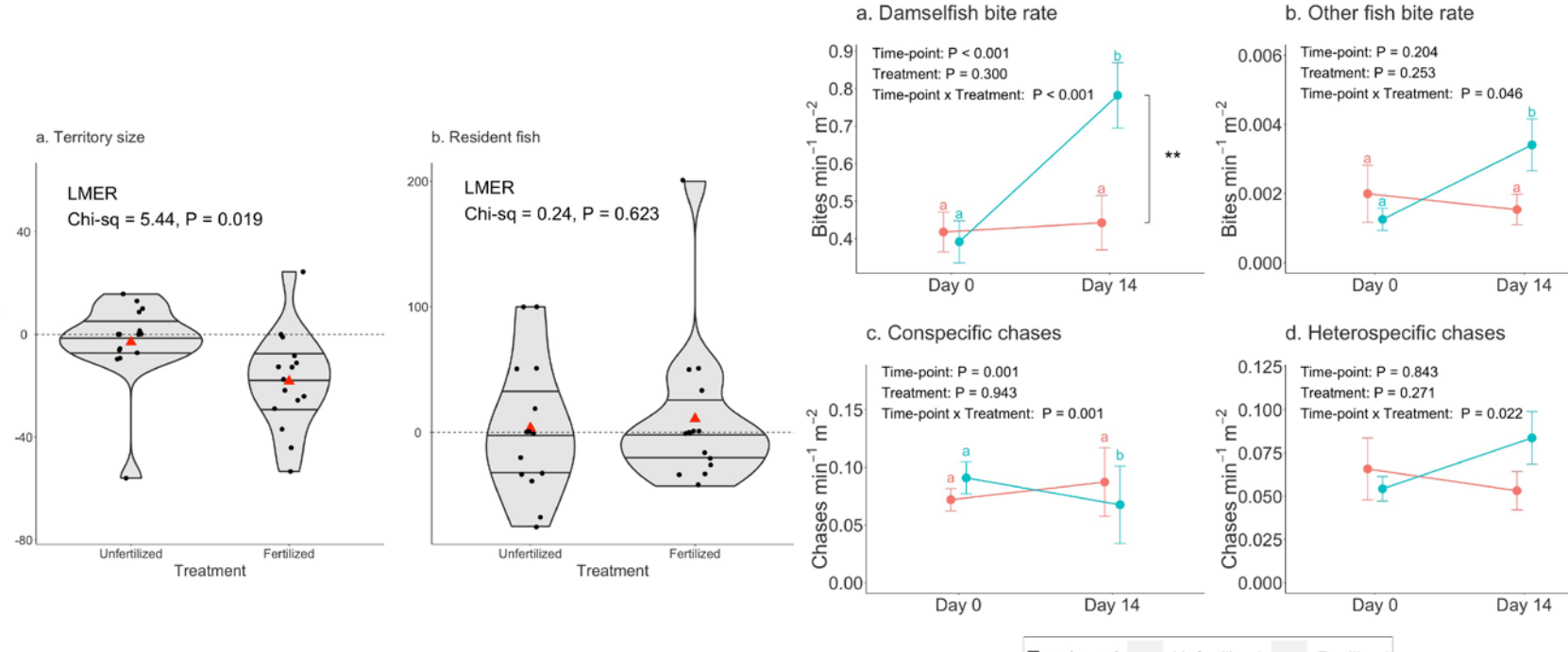




Gochfeld 2010

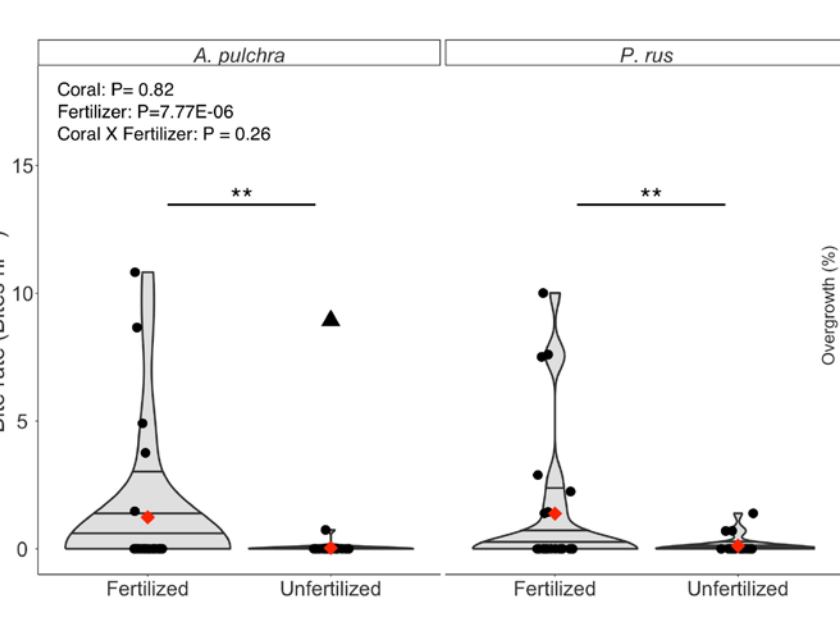
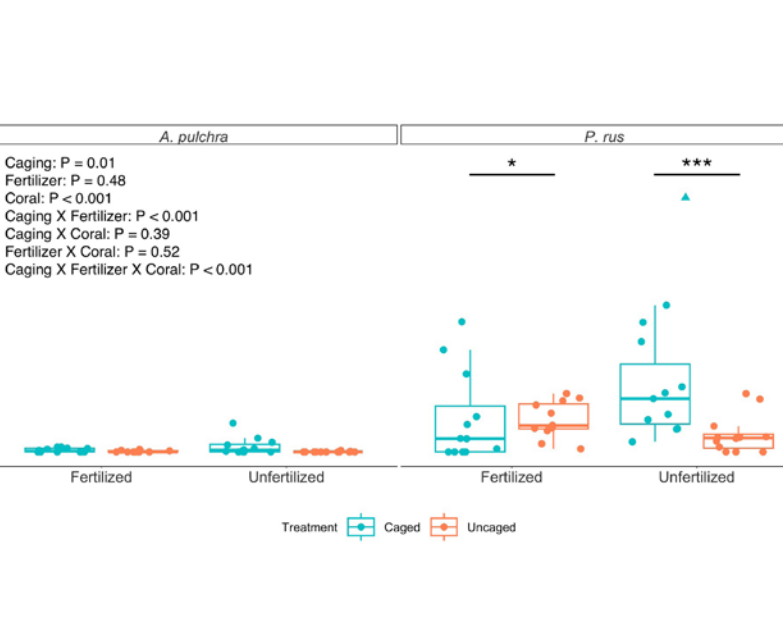
Corals choose to settle inside damselfish territories for protection even though they are exposed to toxic chemicals from the seaweeds inside them.

Altman-Kurosaki et al. *in review*

However, runoff can change damselfish behavior...



...and enhances predation and algal overgrowth of corals.

Altman-Kurosaki and Hay *in review*

Fertilizer runoff might therefore alter the positive effects of damselfish on corals.

