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### Corals through the light : phylogenetics, functional diversity and adaptive strategies of coral-symbiont associations over a large depth range

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Finally here I am, writing this long-awaited last bit of my thesis. Surely it is the most difficult part to accomplish as I owe the fact of being here now to the help and contribution of many. I fear I will not be able to mention them all, and that some may be unfairly forgotten in the rush of the moment.

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Imrat, Timo, it was great to share party vibes and funny adventures. Tineke, thanks for always receiving me with a hug! Johny, Iris and Tio, thanks for your generosity and for one of the best days of my life! Michael Brown has always been around and cheered me up with his nice reggae tunes! It was cool to remember the good times of 2001 with Rita Jahcinto! Tuki was also around for a nice chat and some of the toughest swearing words I have ever heard! Rosa always had a warm Dominican hug waiting for me in Piscaderabaai, cooled off by Presidente beers. Otmar and his singing skills were a good surrounding in some nights of insomnia, but a terrible one when I could actually manage to get some sleep.

Also in CARMABI I have met loads of other students and scientist I cannot count. Some of this people got to become good friends... Eefke, Chantal, Noam, Judith, Miriam, Ruben, Martijn, Monique, Arjan, Suzanne... Natascha got to be the craziest one and that is why I like her so much! Ah, and you have got the sexiest lips! Sorry mentioning it here! I also want to thank all the researchers showing up in Curaçao for the nice after-work discussions and for sharing their passion for science. Ben and Ron, you are among these! On Curaçao I had amazing diving trips to the North Coast and to Klein Curaçao. I cannot recall all the funny people I met in such events!

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