Sponge-coral interactions on Caribbean reefs
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Finally!! Although I sometimes thought that this thesis was going to be a never ending story, it is almost finished. Strangely, I (yet) do not feel the enormous joy and relief I expected to feel when writing these words. However, I am glad that I can start with words of thanks to all people who have made this project possible and endurable.

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During the two years of data processing, when my contract had officially ended my partner Peter and I travelled two times up and down from Curacao to Texel. This was because of projects of Peter. Even though my project was officially finished, the staff of CARMABI always let me use the facilities. On Texel, the staff of NIOZ very kindly provided facilities and a place to stay. Rolf and Gerard, thanks for backing me up.

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During the two years of data processing, when my contract had officially ended, my partner Peter and I travelled two times up and down from Gorgora de Texel. This was because of projects of Peter. Even though my project was officially finished, the staff of CARMA always let me use the facilities. On Texel, the staff of RINZ very kindly provided facilities and a place to stay, Rolf and Gerard, thank you for making me feel at home.

While working on this project in the field or behind the computer, I often felt very frustrated. Fortunately, a lot of colleagues, friends and relatives helped me, each in their own way, to overcome this feeling. I want to thank Yvonne and Philip Aarts, Huib Aerts, Harrieke Aarts and Pieter Over, Tillaart Aerts and Yvonne Broersma, Loes en Piet van Asport, Edwin and Gudy van Egmond, Gert-Jan Gast, Henry and Marta de Graaf, Vinke Heijstek and Piet van Heeswijk, Miek and Hans Janmink, Jaap Kaandorp, Piem and Wally Kemps, Peter Lock, Jaap van der Mee, Ivan Nagelskam and Marianne Wilger, Katja Philips and Willie Laquint, Lex van Pots, Justin van Rob, and Michelle van Veld. Frank van der Wolf, Roel Wolmersma. A special thanks goes to Marin de Kuyser with whom I spent days and nights discussing experimental interactions, while drinking beer and eating dinner. Furthermore, Marin was there when I reported in the first publication of this project.

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