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## ***Vibrio* communities in scleractinian corals differ according to health status and geographic location in the Mediterranean Sea**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The increase in seawater temperature associated with global warming is a significant threat to coral health and is linked to increasing mass mortality events and *Vibrio*-related coral diseases. In the Mediterranean Sea, the endemic *Cladocora caespitosa* and the invasive species *Oculina patagonica* are the main scleractinian corals affected by mass mortalities. In this study, culturable *Vibrio* spp. assemblages associated with healthy and unhealthy colonies of these two shallow coral species were characterized to assess the

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