

Supplementary Materials

Table S1. SIMPER results of the first transect (TL-1).

Habitat contribution values were calculated using SIMPER test as implemented in software program PRIMER based on the square root transformed coverage data of benthic habitat types of TL-1.

Habitat type	Contribution of SIMPER procedure (%)		
	Group A	Group B	Group C
Sand	46.0	14.4	–
Rubble	–	13.2	23.6
Dead coral	–	9.4	–
Rock	–	–	–
Hard coral	–	11.6	15.4
Soft coral	–	–	–
Macroalgae	–	14.2	–
Coralline algae	–	7.5	12.0
Turf algae	–	10.0	15.8
<i>Halimeda</i>	–	13.0	32.5
Seagrass	48.9	–	–
Macrofauna	–	–	–
Indeterminate	–	–	–
Similarity	77.1	82.3	66.6

Table S2. ANOSIM results of the first transect (TL-1).

ANOSIM was performed on Bray-Curtis similarity matrix based on square root transformed coverage data of benthic habitat types as determined by digital imaging analysis of the 25 photo quadrats (i.e., sampling points) along TL-1.

Sample statistic (Global R): 0.965

Significance level of sample statistic: 0.001

Variable	Comparison	Global R	p-value
Between Cluster	A vs B	0.984	0.002
	A vs C	1.0	0.001
	B vs C	0.648	0.029

Table S3. SIMPER results of the second transect (TL-2).

Habitat contribution values were calculated using SIMPER test as implemented in software program PRIMER based on the square root transformed coverage data of benthic habitat types of TL-2.

	Contribution of SIMPER procedure (%)				
	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E
Sand	33.0	66.0	57.2	29.4	6.5
Rubble	–	–	–	10.0	48.8
Dead coral	–	–	–	7.8	–
Rock	–	–	–	–	–
Hard coral	–	–	–	23.0	–
Soft coral	–	–	36.8	–	–
Macroalgae	10.0	–	–	–	–
Coralline algae	–	–	–	7.5	10.3
Turf algae	–	16.6	–	10.1	16.6
<i>Halimeda</i>	–	10.6	–	8.9	14.0
Seagrass	49.4	–	–	–	–
Macrofauna	–	–	–	–	–
Indeterminate	–	–	–	–	–
Similarity	72.9	83.9	78.6	66.7	68.6

Table S4. ANOSIM results of the second transect (TL-2).

ANOSIM was performed on Bray-Curtis similarity matrix based on square root transformed coverage data of benthic habitat types as determined by digital imaging analysis of the 93 photo quadrats (i.e., sampling points) along TL-2.

Sample statistic (Global R): 0.890

Significance level of sample statistic: 0.001

Variable	Comparison	Global R	p-value
Between Cluster	A vs B	0.805	0.001
	A vs C	0.955	0.001
	A vs D	0.982	0.001
	A vs E	0.997	0.001
	B vs C	0.951	0.001
	B vs D	0.917	0.001
	B vs E	0.992	0.001
	C vs D	0.783	0.001
	C vs E	0.999	0.001
	D vs E	0.707	0.001

Table S5. SIMPER results of the third transect (TL-3).

Habitat contribution values were calculated using SIMPER test as implemented in software program PRIMER based on the square root transformed coverage data of benthic habitat types of TL-3.

Contribution of SIMPER procedure (%)				
	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Sand	21.5	76.2	46.2	–
Rubble	–	–	11.8	44.0
Dead Coral	–	–	–	–
Rock	–	–	–	–
Hard Coral	–	–	21.8	–
Soft Coral	–	7.5	–	–
Macro Algae	–	–	–	–
Coralline Algae	–	–	–	12.6
Turf Algae	–	5.4	11.7	19.3
Halimeda	–	5.6	–	18.3
Seagrass	73.2	–	–	–
Macro Fauna	–	–	–	–
Indeterminate	–	–	–	–
Similarity	81.4	77.4	68.8	70.7

Table S6. ANOSIM results of the third transect (TL-3).

ANOSIM was performed on Bray-Curtis similarity matrix based on square root transformed coverage data of benthic habitat types as determined by digital imaging analysis of the 49 photo quadrats (i.e., sampling points) along TL-3.

Sample statistic (Global R): 0.982

Significance level of sample statistic: 0.001

Variable	Comparison	Global R	p-value
Between Cluster	A vs B	0.988	0.001
	A vs C	1.0	0.001
	A vs D	1.0	0.001
	B vs C	0.863	0.001
	B vs D	1.0	0.001
	C vs D	0.92	0.008