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## NOTE

### NEW RECORDS OF CORAL DISEASES IN THE PERSIAN GULF

Parviz Tavakoli-Kolour & Sanaz Hazraty-Kari

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Coral diseases as one of the most important stressor degrading global coral reefs including those in the Persian Gulf where there is little information on coral diseases (Riegl et al. 2012); however, in recent years more known and unidentified diseases have been recorded especially from the northern Persian Gulf including Larak, Qeshm, Hengam, and Hormuz Islands (Kavousi et al. 2011, 2013; Tavakoli-Kolour et al. 2015).

Here, we report first observations of three coral diseases including black band disease (BBD) on *Acropora* (Image 1), a syndrome resembling yellow band disease (YBD) and red band disease (RBD) on *Porites* colonies (Images 2–3) from depth 5–6 m at Abu-Musa Island (25.897°N, 55.043°E) after widespread coral bleaching in the northern part of the Persian Gulf (Kavousi et al. 2014) in October 2012. Although BBD (see Riegl et al. 2012; only from the southern part of the Gulf) and YBD were already recorded from the Persian Gulf, RBD (Image 3) is reported from the Persian Gulf for the first time.

The YBD-like syndrome was observed on *Porites* corals (Image 2), however, like YBD which is a disease of endosymbiotic algae rather than the host coral (Cervino et al. 2008), showing pale (not dead) tissues. Microbiological and histological investigation is needed to confirm the disease.

The RBD observed on *Porites* corals like the YBD-like syndrome was overgrown by algae at dead part of colonies (Images 2,3).

Unfortunately, due to banned diving and snorkeling activities around the island, ecological assessment of the diseases was not possible.

## NEW RECORDS OF CORAL DISEASES IN THE PERSIAN GULF

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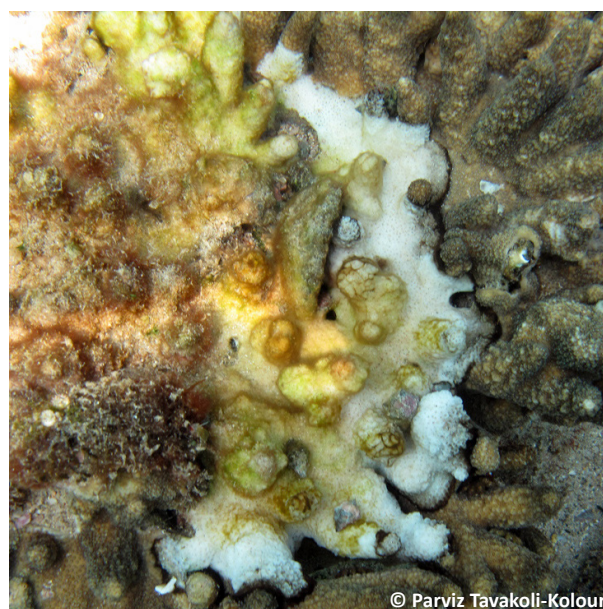


Image 1. Black band disease on *Acropora* species.

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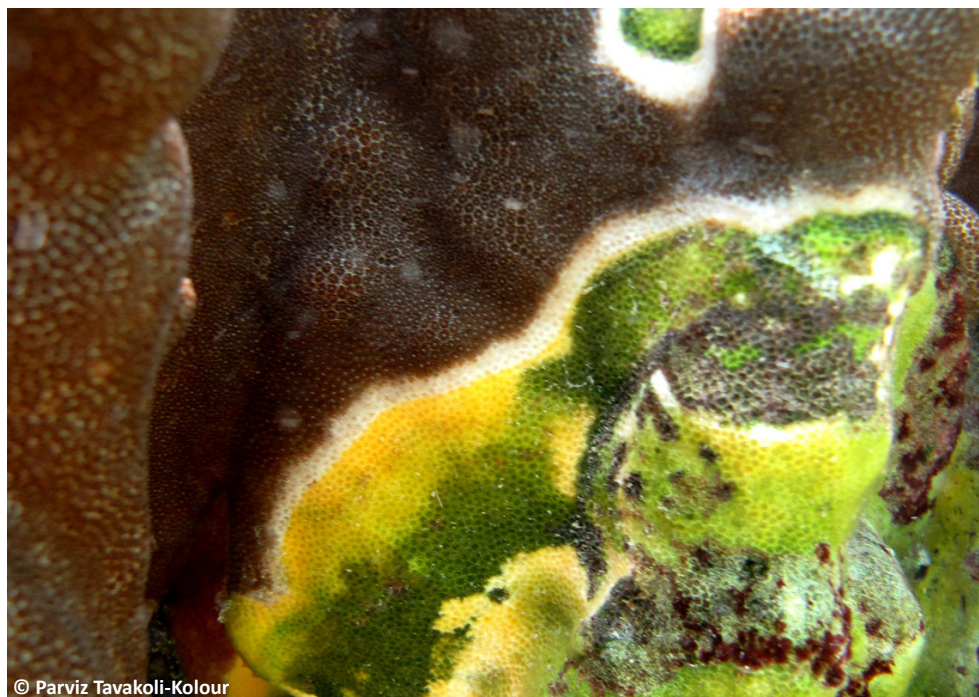
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Image 2. Yellow band disease on *Porites* species.

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Image 3. Red band disease on *Porites* species.

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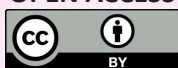
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