

Gal Vered

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EDUCATION

2018–2024 **Ph.D. in Marine Ecology**, Tel Aviv University & Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences in Eilat (IUI). Adviser: Prof. Noa Shenkar. Thesis: *Assessing the Extent and Impact of Plastic Pollution in Coral Reefs*

2016–2018 **M.Sc. in Ecology and Environmental Science**, Tel Aviv University, *Magna cum laude*. Adviser: Prof. Noa Shenkar. Thesis: *Detection of Microplastic & Phthalate Plasticizers in Solitary Ascidiants as a Tool for Environmental Monitoring*

2008–2011 **B.Sc. in Marine Biotechnology**, Ruppin Academic Center, *Magna cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

Vered, G., Nordland O., Gozlan I., and Shenkar N. (2024). Occurrence of plastic additives in coral-reef invertebrates on natural and plastic substrates. *Mar. Pollut. Bull.* 208, 116935. [🔗](#)

Vered, G., and Shenkar, N. (2023). Plastic pollution in a coral reef climate refuge: Occurrence of anthropogenic debris, microplastics, and plasticizers in the Gulf of Aqaba. *Sci. Total Environ.*, 905:167791. [🔗](#)

Vered, G., and Shenkar, N. (2022). Limited effects of environmentally-relevant concentrations in seawater of dibutyl phthalate, dimethyl phthalate, bisphenol A, and 4-nonylphenol on the reproductive products of coral-reef organisms. *Environ. Pollut.*, 314:120285. [🔗](#)

Dutta, S., Saar, R., Lavie, Z., **Vered, G.**, Bradbury, H.J., and Antler, G. (2022). A method for a fast and economical in situ collection of pore water in sandy sediments. *v Front. Mar. Sci.*, 9:1779. [🔗](#)

Shenkar, N., Bereza, D., Gordon, T., Koplovitz, G., Navon, G., Novak, L., **Vered, G.** (2022). Ascidiants of the Red Sea: in peril and invasive. In: The Encyclopedia of Conservation. DellaSala D.A. and Goldstein M.I. (Eds.), p. 733-739. Elsevier. [🔗](#)

Vered, G., and Shenkar, N. (2021). Monitoring plastic pollution in the oceans. *Curr. Opin. Toxicol.*, 27:60–68. [🔗](#)

Avisar, D., Kaplan, A., Ronen-Eliraz, G., **Vered, G.**, Shenkar, N., and Gozlan, I. (2019). Validated method for the detection of three phthalates derived from marine invertebrates. *Am. J. Anal. Chem.*, 10:445-458. [🔗](#)

Vered, G., Kaplan, A., Avisar, D., Shenkar, N. (2019). Using solitary ascidiants to assess microplastic and phthalate plasticizers pollution among marine biota : A case study of the Eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea. *Mar. Pollut. Bull.*, 138:618–625. [🔗](#)

PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

2023–Present **Lab Manager & Research Assistant**, Dr. Tom Shlesinger's [CORALab](#), Tel Aviv University

- Research topics include coral reef ontogeny, reproduction, and life history, as well as the impact of pollution on community structure
- Data and sample collection, analysis, and scientific communication
- Management of lab budgets and procurement

2022–Present **Consultant & Lecturer** to NGOs and policy-makers on sustainability and marine conservation

2014–2016 **Educational Program Manager**, Educational Program for River and Sea Conservation, Dan Municipal Sanitation Association "[Hiranya](#)", Israel

- Designing and executing curricula on waste management and environmental awareness
- Initiating collaboration between schools, NGOs, and local governments

2013	Technical Crew on Research Vessels, 'Mediterranean Explorer' R/V, EcoOcean
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collecting data and handling equipment for oceanographic surveys and sampling• Operating research equipment and supporting navigation and vessel operations
2006-2007	Technical Crew on Research Vessels, 'Eziona' R/V and 'Taglit' R/V, The National Institute of Oceanography in Haifa

TEACHING & MENTORING

Teaching assistant, Hebrew University (2016-2024): "Introduction to Plankton", "Time and Rhythms in Aquatic Systems", "Marine Invertebrates of the Red Sea", and "Environmental Processes in the Gulf of Aqaba"

Mentor for students in guided research projects, Hebrew University (2016-2024): "Sediment rejection in corals", "Circadian rhythms in *Cassiopea andromeda*", and "Biochemical effects of seagrass on porewater"

Teaching assistant, Ruppin Academic Center (2016-2018): "Cells to Organisms", and "Mediterranean Littoral".

Teaching assistant, Tel Aviv University (2017): "Invertebrate Zoology"

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Microplastics Workshop for Early Career Researchers, 2024, Idstein, Germany.

Israeli Science & Environment Conference, "Plastic Pollution in A Coral Reef Climate Change Refuge" (oral presentation). 2023, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry

- "Plastic Pollution in A Coral Reef Climate Change Refuge" (poster). 2023, Dublin, UK.
- "Effects of Plastic Associated Chemicals on the Development of Coral Reef Invertebrates" (poster). 2022, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- "Ascidians as bio-indicators of micro-plastic and phthalates in marine environments" (poster). 2017, Brussels, Belgium.

International Coral Reef Symposium

- "Limited effect of plastic additives on the development of early life stages of *Rhytisma fulvum*, *Stylophora pistillata*, and *Millepora dichotoma*" (oral presentation). 2022, Bremen, Germany.
- "Detection of plastic additives in *Stylophora pistillata* and *Favites abdita* from the Red Sea" (oral presentation). 2021, Virtual.

Israeli Conservation Science Conference, "Assessment of plastic pollution in the tropical coral reefs of Eilat, a highly touristic city in the northern tip of the Red Sea" (oral presentation). 2022, Tel Aviv, Israel.

The Zoological Society of Israel, "Effects of plastic-associated chemicals on the early life stages of four tropical coral-reef invertebrates" (oral presentation). 2022, Tel Aviv, Israel

International Tunicate Meeting, "Using solitary ascidians to assess microplastic and phthalate plasticizers pollution in marine environments" (oral presentation). 2019, Villefranche Sur Mer, France.

Israeli Association of Aquatic Sciences, " Ascidians as bio-indicators of micro-plastic and phthalates in marine environments" (oral presentation). 2017, Haifa, Israel.

AWARDS & GRANTS

- Berko Award for Excellence in Maritime Research, The Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences (2024)
- Adesman Travel Grant, The School of Zoology, Tel-Aviv University (2023)
- Zoological Society of Israel Travel Grant, The Zoological Society of Israel (2022)

- "Aid Grant" for female doctoral students attending an international conference accompanied by an infant, Tel Aviv University (2019)
- Top 10 of the Best Poster Presentations, The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), Europe 27th annual meeting, Brussels, Belgium, (2017)
- Ermacora Travel Grant, The Ermacora Fund and The School of Zoology, Tel Aviv University (2017)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2022–Present **Environmental & Peace Activist**, [EcoPeace Middle East](#). Advocate for marine protection through regional collaboration among Israeli and Jordanian residents

2020–2022 **Founder & Committee Member**, Student Board, Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences in Eilat ([IUI](#)), Israel. Initiating a student board to improve the students' academic and social environment

2009–2011 **Sailing Instructor for At-Risk Youth & Special Needs Groups**, Mikhmoret, Israel

2007 **Volunteer** at the [Mezimbite Forest Center](#), central Mozambique

2003–2006 **Youth Guide & Environmental Activist**, Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel ([SPNI](#))

CERTIFICATIONS

- TDI Decompression Procedures Diver (2023)
- Scientific Diver (AAUS) (2010)
- Grade 60 Skipper's License (2010) with over 5000 nautical miles, transatlantic experience
- Dive-Control Specialist (SSI) (2005)

REFERENCES

Prof. Noa Shenkar, The School of Zoology, George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv 69978, Israel. E-mail: shenkarn@tauex.tau.ac.il

Dr. Tom Shlesinger, The School of Zoology, George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv 69978, Israel. E-mail: tomshlez@tauex.tau.ac.il

Prof. Oren Levy, Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, 52900, Israel. E-mail: oren.levy@biu.ac.il