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To diversity and beyond

Rozema, Patrick Dennis

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Acknowledgements and Dankwoord

WOW, I'm writing the acknowledgements! That means I am almost done with the journey that started over 5 years ago. And what a ride has it been. From the chilling ocean spray of the Antarctic ocean in my face while speeding between ice bergs and whales to the late hours behind a computer screen in a desolated building. Humbled by the icy beauty of the Antarctic continent and motivated by interesting results and people, I now see the fruits of my labors which have led to the culmination of this project, a PhD thesis to defend. Many people have contributed to this research or made life even more enjoyable whilst doing this. I am sure I will forget many, for that I apologize, but I will have a go at thanking as many people as I can.

First and foremost I would like to thank Anita, my promotor, for giving me the opportunity to partake in this endeavor. While we have had our differences, I greatly appreciate the advice and guidance you have given me. I was lucky to have a promotor which allowed a great sense of freedom with regards to the topics and approaches I explored during this project. Over the course of the project, Henk became my go to advisor for everything related to DNA. Henk, your drive, creativity and understanding stimulated me to pursue an open mind and sparked my creativity. Willem, my second co-promotor, stepped into the role of daily advisor, for which I am very grateful. Thanks, for your approachability and reality check. Many times we have acted as each other's sounding board which resulted in interesting and relevant science being pursued. Also, I would like to thank Anouk Piquet, although we only shared an office for a brief moment I appreciate you sharing your experience with field work and in the molecular lab.

Much of the success of this project depended on the Antarctic fieldwork. Organizing, executing and preparing the continuous collection of data and samples for a 2.5 year period combined with two additional extensive summer campaigns is something I could not and have not done by myself. First and foremost, I would like to thank Ronald for sharing his extensive knowledge as a field technician and polar field guide. Together we designed and build new equipment, executed a large part of the summer campaigns and went through the extensive piles of paperwork. And perhaps more importantly, thanks for teaching me the names of all non-microbial fauna we have



observed during the exciting sampling trips. And of course Pim, as a student you've joined for the second summer campaign. Your determination and dedication to the project were marvelous and I think you've had a great experience despite the long hours of filtrations in a chilly container. Our sampling programme continued throughout two Antarctic winters, while I was absent, and for this I am grateful to Amber Annett and Mairi Fenton. You were both very enthusiastic for staying and despite a demanding sampling schedule you've managed to collect a unique set of winter samples. And there are many, many more people that assisted in these campaign preparations: the RuG logistics (Dirk-Jan and colleagues) and purchase departments (Froukje and colleagues), the RAD lab (Arjo and Mieke). Moreover, the campaigns were impossible without the support from the British Antarctic Survey, most specially Sharon Duggan, thanks for your seemingly endless support both on site and through email, Mike Brian (station leader), the boatmen, the Marine assistants (Sabrina and Mairi), and all the support staff and fellow scientists on station. A very big thank you.

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After the collection on the samples and data, the tedious process of analyses began. Coffee breaks, and the occasional Friday afternoon beer, broke up this process and fueled my inspiration. Especially Peter, thank you for sharing your great perspectives on life and the job as a scientists. Also, a big thank you for sharing those coffees and beers to many of my marine biology colleagues: Eize, Dennis, Jan, Karin, Ika, Henk, Loes, Klaas, Stella, Gezien, Han, Steven, Cecilia, Sem, Azim and the many MSc students throughout the years. Alison, thank you for introducing me to the wonderful world of geocaching. It has been a wonderful distraction from writing my thesis! Martijn,

Wendy and Sean are thanked for their helping with pigment analysis and/or DNA extraction. Cindy, of course I want to say a special thanks to you. Not only for all of coffee breaks but also for all the paperwork with regards to my thesis defense and every other “small” question I have had.

Once all the samples were processed I came to the data analysis part and I was lucky to be collaborating with a large number of inspiring, kind and helpful scientists that gave their views on my work. I am grateful for Anita her introduction into the IMCONET framework where I’ve met many interesting and kind scientists including Edy Hernandez, Irene Schloss and Doris Abele. Also, this framework allowed me to visit Woods Hole and work in the lab of Linda Amaral-Zettler. Linda, thank you for facilitating such an inspiring environment and being a very curious person! I’m sure you like your new position on Texel! Finally, I would like to thank my BAS collaborators, Mike Meredith and Hugh Venables. Mike, thank you for always being helpful! Hugh, thanks for all the talks we’ve had on site about our research but also help with the RaTS data. It was great fun to shoot the occasional game of pool after lunch, thanks!

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Completing a PhD thesis is not only about the work part, but also the mind set and relaxation outside of work hours. Daarom wil ik graag nog een aantal vrienden



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