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*Supplementary Data*

**Comparing sessile benthos on shallow artificial versus natural hard substrates in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea**

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**Table S1.** Pair-wise comparisons of significant sources of variation detected under PERMANOVA test for taxa cover percentages. Su: substrate; Or: orientation; Lo: locality; St: site; Nat: natural; Art: artificial; Nor: North; Sou: South; Ka: Kato Galatas; Ba: Bali; Go: Gournes; Ho: Hora Sfakion; Ag: Agia Galini; Tsou: Tsousouros; p: level of significance; n.s.: not-significant; \* p<0.05; \*\* p<0.01.

| Source of variation | Pairs of factor | Level(s)   | Groups     | p          |    |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|----|
| Su                  | Substrate       |            | Nat VS Art | **         |    |
| Lo(Or)              | Locality        | North      | Ka VS Ba   | **         |    |
|                     |                 |            | Ka VS Go   | **         |    |
|                     |                 |            | Ba VS Go   | **         |    |
|                     |                 | South      | Ho VS Ag   | **         |    |
|                     |                 |            | Ho VS Ts   | *          |    |
|                     |                 |            | Ag VS Ts   | **         |    |
| Su x Or             | Orientation     | Natural    | Nor VS Sou | n.s.       |    |
|                     |                 | Artificial | Nor VS Sou | n.s.       |    |
|                     | Substrate       | North      | Nat VS Art | *          |    |
|                     |                 | South      | Nat VS Art | **         |    |
| Su x Lo(Or)         | Substrate       | Nor-Ka     | Nat VS Art | **         |    |
|                     |                 |            | Nor-Ba     | Nat VS Art | ** |
|                     |                 |            | Nor-Go     | Nat VS Art | ** |
|                     |                 | Sou-Ho     | Nat VS Art | **         |    |
|                     |                 | Sou-Ag     | Nat VS Art | **         |    |
|                     |                 | Sou-Ts     | Nat VS Art | n.s.       |    |
|                     |                 | Locality   | Nat-Nor    | Ka VS Ba   | ** |
|                     |                 |            | Ka VS Go   | *          |    |
|                     |                 |            | Ba VS Go   | **         |    |
|                     |                 | Nat-Sou    | Ho VS Ag   | **         |    |

|         |          |      |
|---------|----------|------|
|         | Ho VS Ts | n.s. |
|         | Ag VS Ts | **   |
| Art-Nor | Ka VS Ba | **   |
|         | Ka VS Go | **   |
|         | Ba VS Go | **   |
| Art-Sou | Ho VS Ag | *    |
|         | Ho VS Ts | *    |
|         | Ag VS Ts | **   |

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