

Hi all! My name is Gabriela Garcia Greco (she/her/hers, they/them/theirs). I am a Geology and Environmental Studies major from Venezuela. My honors project aims to quantify micro and macro borers in the *Acropora cervicornis*, in order to help quantify the bioerosion rate of the Coral Gardens ecosystem in Belize. Borers are communities of organisms that “deconstruct” the coral’s skeleton after the animal dies. I investigate not only what is the micro and macro-boring rate for the corals, but also how the borer community progressively takes over the dead *Acropora cervicornis* branches.

The results from this project can provide information that will help understand the way boring communities exist within the corals themselves and, on a larger scale, how boring affects the carbonate budget for the *A. cervicornis* in Coral Gardens. By understanding the coral budget, we can also get a better sense for the health of the coral community as a whole and how it might fare against the challenges of sea level rise and climate change.

