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Cover: The sea anemone Aiptasia (sensu *Exaiptasia pallida*) is gaining momentum as a model system to study the coral-Symbiodinium symbiosis that provides the foundation of coral reef ecosystems. The easy maintenance, rapid proliferation, inexpensive rearing, and genetic tractability of Aiptasia makes it popular with laboratories globally. The picture shows a so-called aposymbiotic Aiptasia, i.e. an anemone without any symbionts. The bright orange color comes from the feeding of brine shrimp, which provides a source of energy for aposymbiotic anemones. Having the option of rearing aposymbiotic anemones and the possibility to (re-)infect them with different symbiont types promises leaps in our understanding of the intricacies of the cnidarian host-symbiont relationship. In this issue, Gegner et al. (p. 1943), show that high salinity can convey thermotolerance in symbiotic Aiptasia, potentially providing an important piece to our understanding of what contributes to coral thermal resilience. Image provided by Hagen M. Gegner and licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence.

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