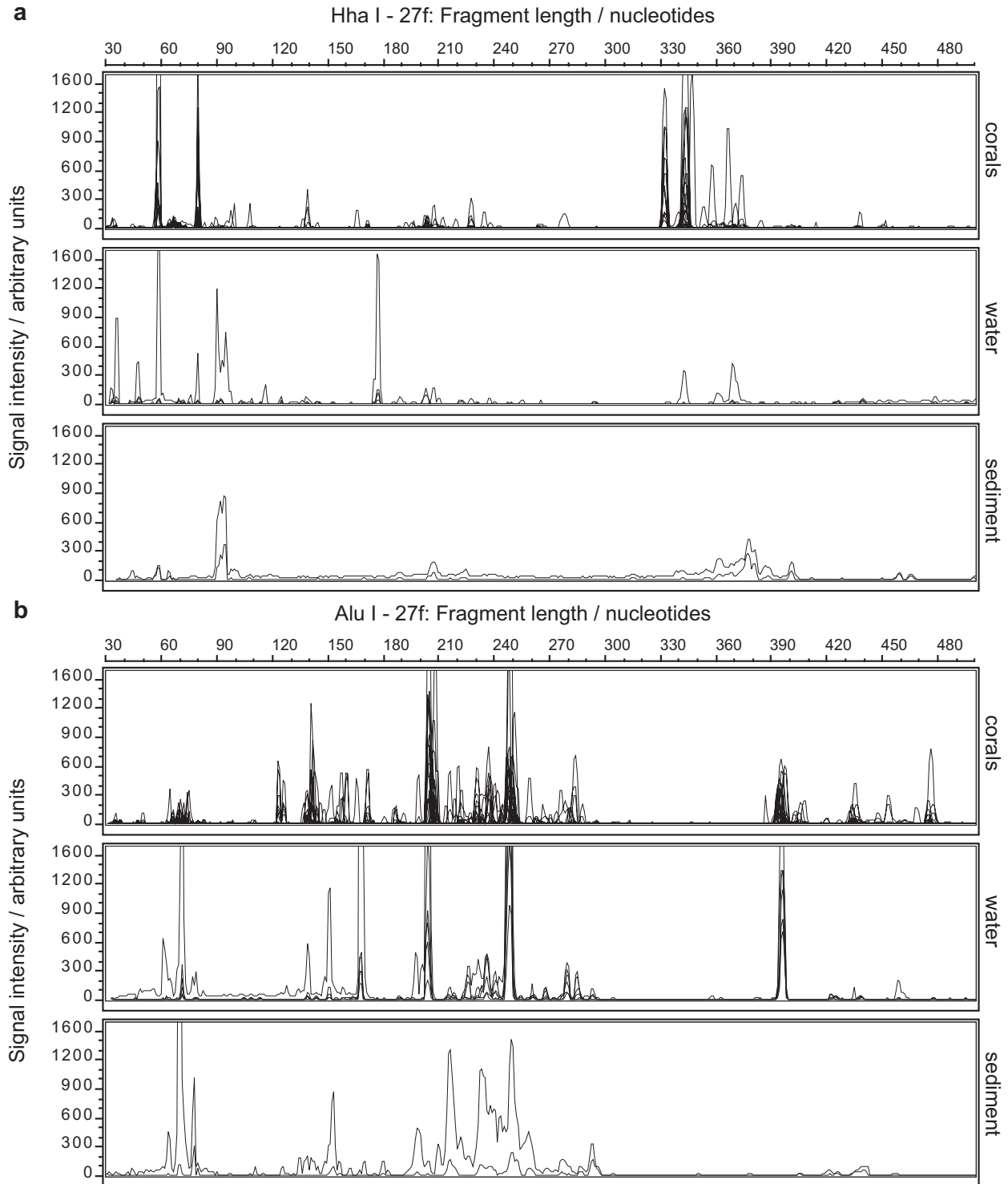
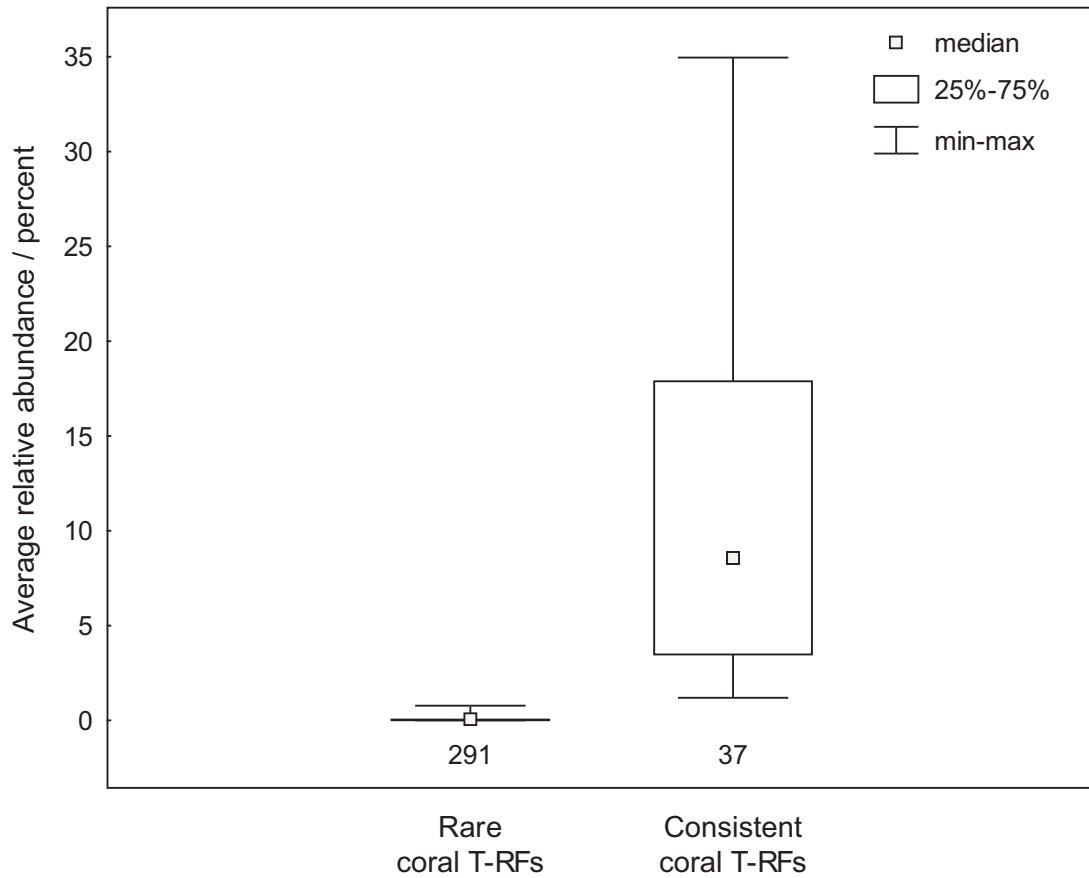


**Table S1.** Absolute and relative numbers of T-RFLP peaks shared by the respective sample types.

<b>corals only</b>	<b>sediment only</b>	<b>water only</b>	<b>corals + sediment</b>	<b>corals + water</b>	<b>sediment + water</b>	<b>all samples</b>	$\Sigma$
167	85	74	34	49	30	78	517
32.3%	16.4%	14.3%	6.6%	9.5%	5.8%	15.1%	100.0%



**Fig. S1.** T-RFLP chromatograms produced by restriction enzymes Hha I (a) and Alu I (b) in combination with primer 27f. All chromatograms of a respective sample type were combined to a single overlay plot to illustrate the overall pattern.



**Fig. S2.** Distribution of average relative abundances for rare and consistent coral T-RFs. For each distribution the median, central quartiles (25%-75%), and extremes (min-max) are plotted. The number of T-RFs falling into the respective category is stated below the box plots.