

Spicules in Antarctic polychaetes

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Spicules have been known from among several groups of animals and studied in terms of their function and evolution (e.g. Uriz *et al.* 2003). So far, however, only one out of 12,000 species of polychaetes has been confirmed to possess spicules (Huang *et al.* 2011). Recently, we found spicules in two species of polychaetes belonging to the Antarctica-endemic genus *Flabegraviera* Salazar-Vallejo, 2012: *F. fujaie* Jimi, Tsujimoto, Watanabe, Kakui, and Kajihara, 2017 and *F. mundata* (Gravier, 1906). The spicules in *Flabegraviera* are triangle in shape, about 100 µm long, and distributed in gel-like tunics that cover the body of the worm. This is the second report of spicules from polychaetes and will contribute to future research about the origin and function of spicules.

References

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